

PSJ 481: Poverty and Social Justice Internship

Syllabus –spring 2016

Elon Academic Internship Coordinator for Poverty and Social Justice

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Academic Learning Goals

- Foster respect for the multiple resources that individuals and communities bring to the understanding of poverty.
- Recognize and affirm mutuality and accountability as foundational to work with and on behalf of those affected by poverty.
- Engage in advocacy directed towards alleviating poverty
- Build interpersonal, interdisciplinary and cross-cultural communication skills
- Integrate theoretical, experiential, and personal perspectives on poverty and social justice

Student and Site Supervisor Learning Goals

Students should develop 3-5 learning goals in consultation with their site supervisor that will serve to help focus their internship experience.

- Logistics of the organization to better understand how nonprofit and charity organizations run.
- Build a relationship with the clients and staff at the organization
- Connect and apply academic learning and real-world issues

Academic credit and on site work expectations

Students should decide how many credit hours they wish to pursue for their internship in consultation with the Elon academic intern supervisor and their site supervisor. Each hour of credit requires 40 hours of work onsite at their internship. Work required to complete the academic requirements (reading, paper, etc) are in addition to the work in their agency/placement.

Course expectations

1. Learning contract - Each student will be expected to draft a contract outlining their learning goals and expectations for the semester. This will be done in consultation with the PSJ intern coordinator at Elon.
2. Annotated bibliography – An annotated bibliography that includes between 10-20 sources should be built by each student throughout the course of the internship. Sources should

focus on a particular research area related to the subject of the internship and will be used for the final paper.

3. Integrated journal – Students will complete journal entries at least once a week in response to prompts provided by the professor. The journal will be submitted for feedback and grading by the professor.
4. Final written paper – This final paper will focus on integrating theory with experience, will draw on the student's research throughout the semester and will be approximately 5-8 pages in length.
5. Orientation – Each student will participate in a professional orientation session in which topics of confidentiality, working in non-profits, dress, relationships with clients and staff, self-motivation and creativity will be addressed among other topics.
6. Oral presentation – Each student will make a final oral presentation to PSJ faculty, PSJ 110, and/or the Poverty and Social Justice capstone class highlighting both the internship experience as well as significant learning.
7. Meetings – Students will be expected to maintain regular contact with both their Elon academic supervisor as well as their site supervisor. The frequency and timing of these meetings should be established as part of the learning contract.
8. Supervisor evaluation – Each site supervisor will submit an evaluation of the interns performance that will inform the student's final grade.
9. Support for the minor- Students will be expected to attend PSJ events, serve as mentors to PSJ minors, and provide feedback to the advisory board as needed.

Journal

I have included three journal prompts below that I would like you to respond to over the final three weeks of your internship (we will establish firm dates together in our first meeting). You should aim for substantive responses of between 500-750 words for each essay. The final journal task is a problem-based learning research assignment. You will find all the details explained below.

Prompt #1 - Discuss how your cultural identity has impacted the building of relationships with members of your internship site as well as the local community.

Prompt #2 – Identify something about your experiences in your internship related to poverty or how agencies work to alleviate poverty that initially surprised you about work and reflect on it. Why were you surprised? What were your initial assumptions that you either discovered to be in need of revision or simply hadn't thought to consider before?

Prompt #3 — How has your internship altered your thinking on a particular aspect of poverty and/or poverty alleviation. You might consider a view you developed in one of your classes on poverty and found support for in the literature, but that you feel may need some revision now that you have worked a bit.

Final grade will be determined as follows:

Work log and Supervisor Evaluation— 35%
Meetings-- 10% (Dates TBD)
Journals—25% (Dates TBD)
Final Paper—15%
Bibliography—10 %
Work with PSJ advisory board and Mentoring-5%

Readings

-- Three readings to be selected by student intern related to the internship site and learning goals and discussed with faculty mentor.