



Course frequency: Arranged

Course location: Arranged

Instructor: John Twichell, Ph.D.

Office: TBD in Rome, Italy

Office Hours: TBA (each week) and by appointment

Email: j.twichell@miami.edu

Course description: This course is designed to maximize the effectiveness and utility of a condensed summer semester-long, out-of-classroom internship as an integral element of academic programs in the College of Arts and Sciences. Course components are designed to inspire the student to realize the academic benefits of an internship while that same practical work experience is taking place. The cooperative design fosters an environment where the student is able to experience what it is like to work on relevant real world projects. *Equally important*, the student receives guidance, performance evaluations, and feedback from both the internship supervisor and the course instructor. Identified based on the career interests of the student, the internship host organization is a setting conducive to applied work in international relations broadly defined. Host organizations in Rome, Italy include those based in the following fields: commerce, marketing, and trade; diplomacy; environmental and sustainable development; global public health; human-generated and natural disaster relief and response; human rights; international law; international political economy; international security; and issues of social equality and justice. Above all, the course offers students an unparalleled opportunity to: (1) partner with an agency/organization approved by the instructor; (2) participate in projects closely tied to academic curriculum; and (3) apply critical-thinking, data analysis, leadership, methodological, and theoretical skills to the scope of applied work.

Student learning outcomes (SLOs): The student will: (1) apply the theoretical principles of International Studies to identify a specific career interest; (2) gain experience in the practice of international relations by serving as an intern in that area of career interest; (3) be inspired to draw upon academic theory, research methodology and methods to solve real world problems; (4) develop and translate analytic, communication, leadership, and problem-solving skills into civic responsibility; (5) foster mutually beneficial collaborations between the College and the community to promote positive social change; and (6) gain enhanced knowledge of issues of global societal significance and associated alternative cultural and national perspectives toward those issues.

Course mission: Internships and civic engagement are central to the intellectual experience in the College of Arts and Sciences, where students are encouraged to apply what they learn in the classroom to the workplace, and in service to their community. With that broader mission in mind, the course is designed to enhance student understanding of the complexities of the modern world through internships and civic engagement. It aims to apply the interdisciplinary approach of International Studies found in the increasing interdependence of people, nations, and institutions at all levels of society. The course partners with agencies, communities, and organizations in Rome to build networks, share ideas, and look for innovative, cross-disciplinary solutions to global problems that impact the local community.

Course prerequisites: Student registration into the course requires prior completion of INS core courses *or* permission from the instructor. Upon favorable review of the prospective student's current resume and a written expression of area of internship interests, instructor permission will be granted for course registration. Course registration is limited due to the intense nature of the work required of the instructor and of students.

Course assignments, and grading criteria:

The student is required to schedule an appointment and meet individually with the instructor during the semester's first two weeks of classes. The internship is to be identified and confirmed through the instructor. Once confirmed, it is the student's responsibility to make direct contact with the internship site (organization) supervisor. Next, the student is to schedule a meeting with the supervisor to discuss, establish, and formalize the scope of work in written format. Regular internship and class session attendance are required. The student will spend 20 hours per week working at the internship, for at least 4 weeks of the summer A semester, or as arranged with internship supervisor, to fulfill the 80-hour course requirement needed to earn 3 credits. Given that the fundamental purpose of this internship experience is to promote the student's capabilities to bridge theory with practice, the student is expected to incorporate a research component or analytical assignment into the internship, as deemed appropriate by the internship supervisor.

By the end of the semester the student is expected to be able to: (1) explain her/his role and function in the internship organization and how this function contributes to international studies; (2) present both oral and written work that bridges theory with practice; (3) communicate the mission of a real world organization from an insider's perspective through the theories, methodology, and 'language' of international studies; and (3) critically examine one civic engagement activity and evaluate the extent to which it: (a) generates societal awareness, interconnectedness, and mutual understanding; (b) promotes social equality and justice, environmental consciousness, political participation, and/or identity formation; and (c) initiates change locally, with broader global implications.

In addition to the duties and expectations outlined above, the final grade will be structured according to the following set of assignments and criteria:

- ✓ **Internship work plan/agreement (15%):** A written plan/agreement that outlines the goals, objectives, strategies, tasks, and a proposed timeline for successful completion of the internship. The student works with both the internship supervisor and the instructor to ensure the plan/agreement is feasible, and to ensure that it is well suited to the internship organization and to the academic field of international studies. The finalized plan agreement must contain all contact information for the internship supervisor, as well as the supervisor's signature.
- ✓ **Internship student performance evaluation (15%):** A standardized quantitative and qualitative student performance evaluation form is to be completed by the internship supervisor via international-studies.as.miami.edu/. The assessment includes a Likert scale to measure the student's completion of assignments, timeliness, professionalism, work ethic and overall performance. The qualitative section of the assessment enables the supervisor to provide feedback on student's strengths and weaknesses.
- ✓ **Civic engagement (15%):** Students will be required to civically engage with the Rome community through at least one activity related to their area of academic and career interests. The activity can be one that is organized and takes place either on or off the AUR campus. To fulfill the requirements of the assignment, the student must submit a three-page written report that details the activity/event in which s/he participated. The report must be submitted to the Instructor within two weeks after the date of the event.
- ✓ **Oral presentation (20%):** To promote greater awareness about the academic significance of internships, near the end of the term, each student will deliver a presentation (10 minutes in length for undergraduates, and 15 minutes in length for graduate students) about her/his internship and how it relates to international studies, in particular, a specific subfield that informs the 4-week project. Guidelines and grading rubric will be posted on the course website. This presentation will be conducted before an audience that might include faculty and students from the broader University community. Each student is expected to be prepared to respond to critiques and questions from the audience.
- ✓ **Paper (25%):** A ten-page double-spaced academically-sourced research paper in a chosen/identified citation format (fifteen-page length for graduate students). Specific details about the writing format, guidelines and grading rubric will be posted on the course website. The student is to include an appendix of any additional written work completed during her/his internship, as appropriate. Appendices *do not* count toward the page length requirements for this assignment.
- ✓ **Participation (10%):** Attend the three mutually scheduled class sessions having completed the assigned readings.

General protocol:

1. In general, this syllabus is an accurate plan of the course and material schedule that follows. Occasionally changes may be necessary and will be made clear. It is the responsibility of the student to keep her/himself informed of all such changes. Unawareness is not an acceptable excuse.
2. Due dates for assignments are or will be made abundantly clear to students. Assignments must be turned in *on time*. Every day that an assignment is late will result in a grade level drop: an A- becomes a B+, a B+ becomes a B, and so on.
3. Only under the following circumstances (evidenced by **written** documentation) will the instructor excuse absences and/or grant the student permission to re-schedule the due date of an assignment: religious holidays; serious personal illness; family emergency; or unavoidable University of Miami activities. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to make rescheduling arrangements should s/he fail to complete any assignment in accordance with the schedule.
4. In the event that the student experiences internship difficulties in any form, it is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor immediately. An assessment of the problem will be made, followed by appropriate action that involves a determination as to whether or not the student continues with the same internship or is transferred to another internship without any grade penalty being incurred by the student. However, if the difficulties are related to the student not fulfilling her/his responsibilities as agreed in the internship plan and signed agreement, the student could potentially be required to withdraw from the course. In certain cases, such as if the student demonstrates minimal communication, the instructor will make a direct request of the supervisor to complete a midterm assessment, to monitor progress, and to identify any potential need for intervention on the part of the instructor.
5. Students are encouraged to communicate with the instructor during class sessions and office hours and communicate via email with the instructor to raise questions about course material and assignments.
6. Students are greatly encouraged to share their internship experiences and questions via Discussion Board on the course website, to promote a cooperative and engaging (and fun) learning environment among all course participants.

Academic integrity:

NOTE: All work for this course must be the student's own. As a member of the university community, the student is expected to maintain strict academic integrity. The Department of International Studies is prepared to enforce the provisions of the UM Honor Code—https://umshare.miami.edu/web/wda/deanstudents/pdf/undergrad_honorcode.pdf—to their fullest extent should that become necessary. By enrolling in this course the student pledges to abide by the ethical academic standards listed in the Honor Code. Ignorance of academic conventions is not an excuse. It is the policy of the Department of International Studies that cheating on any examination or plagiarism on any paper will result in a grade of F for the course and said issue will also be referred to the University Honor Council.

When writing a paper, any ideas that are not the student's own or are not part of conventional wisdom should be referenced. A general rule is that, if the information cannot be found in three or more commonly available sources, it should be referenced. All direct quotations must be placed in quotation marks and referenced. These guidelines will be enforced. If unsure whether or not to reference, err on the side of caution and do so. If there are further questions about citation and referencing of sources and what constitutes plagiarism, please see the instructor in advance of the due date of the assignment.

Required reading:

- Anonymous. "The Internship Effect: Academic?" *International Educator*, Winter (2004); 13, 1. (on course website)
- Appelbaum, Yoni (2018). "Losing the Democratic Habit." *The Atlantic*; October. (on course website)
- Bridging Theory to Practice, Civic Series Teaser <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1fi5zbwhw&feature=youtu.be&noredirect=1>
- Donald A. Downs. "Civic Education versus Civic Engagement." *Academic Questions*, 14 July (2012) 24: pp. 343-347, Springer. (on course website)
- Patricia C. Franks & Gillian C. Oliver (2012). "Experiential learning and international collaboration opportunities: virtual internships." *Library Review*, Vol. 61, No. 4, pp. 272-285. (on course website)

- Gould, Eric D. and Alexander Hijzen (2016). "Growing Apart, Losing Trust? The Impact of Inequality on Social Capital." *IMF Working Paper WP/16/176*. (on course website)
- Stephen Kemp (2010). "Situating Learning: Optimizing Experiential Learning Through God-given Learning Community." *Christian Education Journal*, Series 2, Vol. 7, No. 1. (on course website)
- Robert D. Putnam. "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital (An Interview with Robert Putnam)." *Journal of Democracy* 6.1 (1995) 65-78. (on course website)
- Robert D. Putnam (2000). *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*. New York City: Simon & Schuster. Chapter 1. (on course website)
- Andrew M. Robinson. "The Workplace Relevance of the Liberal Arts Political Science BA and How it Might Be Enhanced: Reflections on an Exploratory Survey of the NGO Sector." *PS*, January (2013): pp. 147-153, doi:10.1017/S1049096512001308. (on course website)
- Michael Steinberg. "'Involve Me and I will Understand' Academic Quality in Experiential Programs Abroad." *Frontiers* 9 (Winter 2002) 207-229. (on course website)

Course schedule:

There will be **three** required class sessions during the semester. The **three** class sessions are structured as follows:

Session 1: Initial overview of course literature and discussion of intern conduct, duties, etiquette, and responsibilities.*

Session 2: Midterm seminar for students: (a) to share internship observations and feedback, and (b) to receive guidance and input from instructor and classmates about how to approach the remainder of the internship.*

Session 3: End-of-term discussion and coordination and scheduling of oral presentations*

*As warranted, throughout the term, Instructor and students, via Discussion Board on the Blackboard course website, will collectively agree upon and finalize the dates and times for when the **3** class sessions will be conducted. Student absence for any reason from any class session will result in the assignment of additional written coursework (to be determined), the evaluation and grading of which will be calculated into the course participation grade.

Specific dates and deadlines:

Week of May 18 th :	Schedule individual meeting with Instructor to be held by May 28 th
Week of May 26 th :	Schedule meeting with internship supervisor (provided internship is already secured), or follow up with internship supervisor at the conclusion of summer internship
Week of June 1 st :	Class session 1
June 5 th :	Draft work plan due (for summer internships due date is within 2 weeks of internship start date)
Week of June 8 th :	Class session 2
Week of June 15 th :	Class session 3
June 20 th :	Finalized and signed work plan due (for summer internships due date is within 3 weeks of internship start date)
June 23 rd :	Civic engagement report, oral presentation, internship student performance evaluation due
June 24 th :	Final papers due at 4 p.m. (submit to Dr. Twichell by email: j.twichell@miami.edu)