

Political Science 402 Field Internship Seminar

Fall 2009, Maybank 105	Professor Helen Delfeld
Th 5:30 – 6:45	Email: hdelfeld@gmail.com
OFFICE: 114 Wentworth Street, 3 rd Floor	MAILBOX: 114 Wentworth Street, Room 202
<p>Office Hours: TTH: 11- 12 T: 2-4</p> <p>I am also happy to make appointments outside of regular office hours. Office Phone: (843) 953.5915 (email is strongly encouraged – only call this number to see if I’m immediately available for a drop-in appointment. Don’t bother leaving a message – email me instead)</p>	

This class is meant to provide a cohesive backbone to your 140 hour internship (typically 10-15 hours per week). We will be accomplishing three things: deepening your engagement with you own internship, allowing you to derive more satisfaction from the experience; examining a career trajectory that makes sense for you and your life plan; and looking at the issues raised in US society by our engagement with work. What does work mean? What difference does it make if we don’t think consciously about our relationship with work? How do our life choices impact us? The job market is not good right now – but, in all sincerity, this is an opportunity, not a problem. Too often, people are drawn into a “good” (enough) job right out of college – and that starts them on an unexamined trajectory that is difficult to interrupt for more considered examination of ultimate goals or (horrors!) values. Because this generation will need to be more creative in career building, that creativity, if used constructively, will produce much richer lives.

There are four short papers due during the semester: first, an interview analysis that incorporates three interviews you do at your work site; second, an ethnography of your organization, including both explicit and tacit values, motivations, and goals; and third, an analysis of your own engagement with the organization: missed opportunities, rich rewards, frustrations, successes, relationships of value, challenging relationships – act like Studs Terkel and interview the person you know best about your relationship with work. The final paper will be an analysis of your internship organization that takes the processing you did for your ethnography and adds in your own personal analysis of the site as a workplace – as a place where you are part of the story. Additionally, this paper will incorporate more traditional research in addition to the qualitative research methods you used earlier in the semester (the interview and ethnography portions of your work). Bringing your new insights on your internship to bear, select one aspect of the work to research further. It may involve delving deeper into issues raised by our speakers (Dr. Curtis on sexual harassment, for example); it may involve the engagement of your interview site in larger US or world issues (the voluminous literature on the public defender’s office and its place in the US legal system, for example); it may be a more theoretical engagement of power structures themselves, as manifest in your internship site. There are many ways of taking this final assignment – it is open ended so you can

explore the relevance of research to your particular internship, and with careful planning deepen your understanding of this semester's activities. Please clear topics with me as soon as possible, certainly no later than November 1. You will be expected to engage scholarly literature on your chosen topic for this final paper.

You will need to keep a journal, in which you write at least twice a week. Keep only one word doc, with dates at the top of each entry, rather than multiple docs. Add new entries to the end of the old doc, so that at the end of the semester you have one complete doc with every entry. We're not looking for anything formal or fancy (but do use proper spelling, punctuation, and grammar, so I don't lose my mind), just a paragraph or two per entry tracking how things are going for you. Starting the second week of class (Sept 3), and every other week thereafter, email me your journal AT LEAST 24 hours before class. This allows me to keep an eye on how things are going for you, despite limited class time to cover issues.

Additionally, I reserve the right to administer quizzes.

The four papers and the attendant presentations will comprise 50% of your grade; your assessment provided to me by your internship site will provide 25%; journal entries are 10% (easiest 10% you've ever earned – just turn the things in on time); the final 15% will be attendance and participation in class. I take participation seriously, especially as this class is designed for YOU to maximize the benefit. If you contribute nothing, you likely will get nothing; if you contribute a lot, everyone including you will benefit.

Grades for individual assignments and the final grade in the course will be based on the following scale: 93-100 A; 90-92 A-; 88-89 B+; 83-87 B; 80-82 B-; 78-79 C+; 73-77 C; 70-72 C-; 68-69 D+; 63-67 D; 60-62 D-; below 60 F.

We will be writing thank-you letters at the end of the semester. This, besides being the gracious thing to do to thank people for contributing to your career development, is an unparalleled networking opportunity. As you already know, many peoples' first career job is attained through a successful internship; the success of an internship falls squarely on you!

Books: We will be drawing from three books:

Working and

The Great Divide: Second Thoughts on the American Dream, both by Studs Terkel, and Barbara Ehrenreich: *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America*

You must buy a copy of *Nickel and Dimed*. You can get it for \$4-5 dollars at any used bookstore or at Amazon.com or the other online resellers. Because it is ubiquitous and so cheap, I did not ask the bookstore to order it, since it would be considerably more expensive from their suppliers.

I will scan the appropriate sections of both the Terkel books and put them on the library e-res system, password: internship.

Schedule:

Day 1: Thursday, August 27 Introduction and discussion of expectations and stuff
Assign: Interviews

Day 2: Thursday, September 3 (**journal due** Wednesday Sept 2)
Do: Generate question lists for different interview subjects; peer review of questions.
Read: *Working* "Introduction"; "Mike LeFevre" pp xxxi-xxxviii
Hear: Dr. Annette Watson on interviewing and ethnography

Day 3: Thursday, September 10 Effective Speaking **MEET AT SPEAKING LAB**
Hear: Dr. Deborah Mcgee on public speaking
Read: *The Great Divide*: "Frank Lumpkin" pp 185-189; "Tom Costello" pp 189-193

Day 4: Thursday, September 17 (**journal due** Wednesday, Sept 16)
Troubling Issues at Work
Hear: Dr. Claire Curtis
Read: MacKinnon and Siegel, "Directions in Sexual Harassment Law"
Assign: Ethnography of the Organization

Day 5: Thursday, September 24
Do: Interview reports
Have Done: Three interviews with members, constituents, or clients of your organization
Read: *The Great Divide* "Chief Anthony Bouza" pp 348-354; "Erica Bouza" pp 354-360
Have Done: **4-5 page Interview Report to be turned in**

Day 6: Thursday, October 1 (**journal due** Wednesday, Sept 30)
Have Done: Conceptual Map of the Organization
Read: *Nickel and Dimed* excerpt, pp 1-10; 121-191

Day 7: Thursday, October 8
Do: Ethnography of the Organization presentation
Have Done: **4-5 page Ethnography of the Organization to be turned in**
Have Done: Strong Interest Inventory (this allows Meredith Gerber time to analyze our results)

Day 8: Thursday, October 15 (**journal due** Wednesday, Oct 14)
Have Done: Strong Interest Inventory
Hear: Meredith Gerber

Day 9: Thursday, October 22
Hear: Linda Robinson, Career Center
Read: *Working* "Nora Watson" pp 521-524; "Walter Lundquist" pp 525-527; "Rebecca Sweeney" 527-531"

Day 10: Thursday, October 29 (**journal due** Wednesday, October 28)
Resume 101 (bring 3 copies for peer review)
Do: Career Issue Breakdown
Read: *Nickel and Dimed* excerpt, pp 193-221

Day 11: Thursday, November 5 How to build a meaningful life I
Hear: Dr. Kea Gorden
Read: *Working* "John Fortune" pp 73-78; "Pat Zimmerman" pp 489-493

Day 12: Thursday, November 12 How to build a meaningful life II (**journal due** Wed, Nov 11)
Hear: Dr. Jen Wright

Read: *Working* “Fred Ringley” pp 532-537; “Philip Da Vinci” pp 537-540; “Sarah Houghton” pp 540-543; “Mario Anichini” pp 543-544

Day 13: Thursday, November 19 How to build a meaningful life III

Do: What would you do for free?

Read: *The Great Divide* “Timuel Black” pp 276-279; “T. Kerrigan Black” pp 280-283.

Have done: **4-5 page Self-Interview due**

Have done: **Internship Evaluation Form due**

Thursday, November 26 **Thanksgiving Day, no class!!**

Day 14: Thursday, December 3 (**journal due** Wed, Dec 2)

Do: Internship Analyses Presentation

Have Done: **8-10 page Internship Analysis due**

Have done: **Thank you letter to your organization and/or supervisor**