

Sociology 3393-001:
Diversity Internship
Spring 2014



CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Kyl Myers
Office Location: BEH S 312
Office Hours: by appointment
E-mail: kyl.myers@soc.utah.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The diversity internship provides an opportunity for undergraduate students to volunteer with an organization in the community that will expand their experience with and understanding of our diverse population. Diversity is a common theme within the sociological discipline and American society. Considered the “Melting Pot” of the world, American diversity is celebrated through different categories ranging from race, age, gender, sexuality, class, ethnicity, ability, religion and more. The internship is a form of “experiential learning” where the student engages with people outside of a classroom through participation with a community organization and the diverse population it serves. Through a semester long commitment with an organization of their choice, students will volunteer weekly with an organization, keep a reflection journal, and write a research paper focused on their diversity experience and how it relates to sociology.

PREREQUISITES:

Because students are working with an organization that serves a diverse population, it is essential that students interested in the diversity internship have taken a course meeting the diversity requirement and have a basic understanding of diversity issues. Aside from the actual time spent at the internship there is very little course content, thus it is important that students have been exposed to diversity classes prior to enrolling in this internship. If you are unsure whether you have the necessary prerequisite experience, please discuss it with the instructor. It is also imperative that the student can commit to the required hours of the internship and be accountable and punctual for the organization relying on them to meet their internship requirements.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. *Contact the instructor:* Send an e-mail to kyl.myers@soc.utah.edu with the subject: diversity internship. The student and instructor will discuss options for where the student would like to intern. Please see the list of potential options on Canvas. Note, that these are not your only options. If you have somewhere else in mind, we can discuss it, but the instructor must approve all internships.

2. *Arrange an internship placement.* Students are ultimately responsible for contacting the organization they would like to intern for, setting up a meeting with their potential supervisor to discuss internship requirements, formalizing the learning plan in the form of an internship contract, and turning a copy of the internship contract in to the instructor. [Please note that handouts are available and will be given to you to assist you in completing the process].
3. *Attend the course orientation (date, time and location TBA):* At the beginning of the semester the instructor and the enrolled students will meet to discuss the course requirements, answer questions and introduce the class. This orientation is mandatory and I strongly encourage you to make every effort to attend. In addition to the important information we will cover, this will be the only opportunity to meet other members of the class who can serve as a valuable resource during the semester as you complete your internship.
4. *Fulfill your internship duties:* It is the central requirement of this course that you complete 100-150 hours during the semester with the organization of your choice.
5. *Journal entries:* Turn in journal entries. During your internship you will turn in journal entries containing four components: 1) Your name, course name, organization interning for. 2) A work log where you state the dates and hours completed that week. 3) A description of the activities you participated in that week. 4) A reflection on your experiences that are relevant to diversity and how your internship is making you aware of diversity issues in the media, your personal life, etc. Journal entries are due according to the syllabus, uploaded on Canvas by 11:59 p.m. Journal entries should be no shorter than two double-spaced pages.
6. *Research project:* You are required to complete a 4-5 page, double-spaced research paper that integrates sociological research and an issue relevant to diversity that you experienced during your internship that you will submit to the Social Dialogue journal. The specific guidelines and requirements for the paper are available on Canvas.
7. *Self-assessment:* The last week of the semester, as your final journal entry, you will be required to turn in a short, 2 page, self assessment about your experience with your internship and what you gained from it. Specific guidelines can be found on Canvas.

CANVAS COURSE PAGE:

All of the course information will be available via Canvas. You will have access to the syllabus and assignment guidelines there. You will upload journal entries and your research paper on Canvas. There will be a chat function available for you to contact other people in the course and where we can have class discussions, if necessary. Grades will be made available through Canvas. Please check it regularly.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Course grades are based on each of the following components, according to the percentage indicated:

Supervisory evaluation: Your supervisor will provide feedback to the instructor at the end of the semester internship. A central part of that feedback will be an evaluation of the student intern. The supervisory evaluation will address the extent to which the intern has fulfilled the duties specified in the internship contract. You are required to provide your supervisor with an evaluation form for completion and return via mail; no grade will be given without a completed evaluation form. The supervisory evaluation counts for 40% of your course grade.

Journal entries: You will be graded on the thoroughness and thoughtfulness of your journal entries throughout the semester. Journal entries will count for 25% of your course grade.

Semester research / reflection project: The semester project must be submitted on the due date stated on the syllabus. It is strongly recommended that you make an appointment with the instructor at some point in the middle of the semester to discuss the project. The semester research project will count for 25% of your course grade.

Self-assessment / outcomes (final journal entry): The final journal entry of the semester will be a self-assessment concerning how well your internship met your goals and objectives. A full explanation of expected format is provided in the handout on journal entries. The self-assessment will count for 10% of the course grade.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

As a student you have both rights and responsibilities that are outlined in the Student Handbook. I would recommend that you become familiar with the University regulations which also provide me as your instructor with rights and responsibilities as well.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) STATEMENT:

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

***This syllabus can change at any time. Students will be notified of all changes.**

Schedule:

Week one 1/6-1/11:	Contact course instructor; find organization for internship; Attend course orientation [TBA]
Week two 1/12-1/18:	
Week three 1/19-1/25:	Should begin internship no later than this week; Turn in internship contract to instructor.
Week four 1/26-2/1:	Journal entry #1 due 1/26.
Week five 2/2-2/8:	
Week six 2/9-2/15:	
Week seven 2/16-2/22:	Journal entry #2 due 2/16.
Week eight 2/23-3/1:	
Week nine 3/2-3/8:	Schedule appointment to discuss project with the instructor.
Week ten 3/9-15:	Journal entry #3 due 3/9; Spring Break.
Week eleven 3/16-3/22:	
Week twelve 3/23-3/29:	
Week thirteen 3/30-4/5:	Journal entry #4 due 3/30.
Week fourteen 4/6-4/12:	
Week fifteen 4/13-4/19:	Give supervisory evaluation form to supervisor (due 4/30).
Week sixteen 4/20-4/26:	Self-assessment and final journal entry #5 due 4/20.
Finals week	Research Project due Sunday, 4/27 by 11:59 p.m.
5/13:	Grades available

