Econ 4939 - Internship Seminar

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Office Hours: Mon. 12:00 - 1:30, Wed. 3:30 - 5:00

Class Information: Meets from 5:00-6:15, fortnightly, beginning Jan. 17.

Class: Welcome to the Economics seminar. Unlike other classes, this is a seminar which requires your active participation. The class will begin with a general discussion of your internship experiences. Positive and negative aspects of your work will be shared with your classmates. The goal is to give a broader understanding of learning in the professional environment. During the semester, each student will give a short presentation of his/her work to the class.

The second part of the seminar will discuss the reading assignments. In addition, current economic events will be discussed in class. Come to class prepared; do the assigned readings, keep up with economic events. The class will discuss the relevance of the readings to actual economic events. The goal of the seminar meetings is to allow students to share their experiences and assist them in integrating experience into economic theory.

Internship: Each student will work for a minimum of fifteen hours per week at an internship placement. Approved placements will agree to provide interns with an intellectually challenging primary task. In addition, each student will receive regularly scheduled direct supervision, will be exposed to other aspects of the functioning of the office/institution, and will be involved in discussion with other individuals concerning the relationship between the intern's duties and the overall economic effort of the organization.

Assignments: There will be no exams or tests given.

Grading:
20% based on classroom preparation and participation.
65% based on final (and intermediate) papers.
15% based on internship sponsor's evaluation.

Papers:

1) A three page typed paper. This paper is to present an initial theory about the economic role the placement performs and the manner in which it performs that role.

2) A five to seven page typed paper. This paper is to be an expansion of the initial three page paper. It should expand the theoretical framework based upon two additional readings.

3) A comprehensive analytical paper (at least 15 typed pages). This paper requires placing experience within theory. The purpose of the final paper is to measure the internship experience against the theory developed in the initial and mid-term papers.

At the Feb. 14 class meeting, each student is expected to submit a three page typed paper. This paper is to present an initial theory about the economic role the placement performs and the manner in which it performs that role, i.e., what do they do, how do they do it, and what is the economic significance.

The initial paper may be derived from reading relevant topics in an economics text, for learning experiences obtained in other courses, from prior experience, or from personal beliefs.
At the March 23 seminar meeting, each student will submit a five to seven page typed paper. This paper is to be an expansion of the initial three page paper. It should expand the theoretical framework based upon two additional readings. It should also begin analysis of the internship based upon the experience to date. This paper should begin to clarify, expand upon, and support statements made through specific examples in the internship experience.

At the conclusion of the course (May 1 - the last day of classes), each student will submit a comprehensive analytical paper (at least 15 typed pages). This paper requires placing experience within theory. The purpose of the final paper is to measure the internship experience against the theory developed in the initial and midterm papers. To what degree does the experience reinforce, modify, or contradict the theory expressed in the literature that was read in preparation. Statements not supported by experience should be avoided. Also, to as great a degree as possible, support each statement with specific evidence or examples.

In addition, the paper should:

A) Discuss the placement. Tell the reader who the placement was with, what they do, and what role they occupy in the political process.

B) Present the intern’s specific duties during the placement, how they were accomplished, and what were the intern’s thoughts about the duties.

C) Discuss what the intern’s expectations were regarding the office and the individuals there at the beginning of the semester and the manner in which these expectations were confirmed or contradicted.

D) Finally, as an appendix, the paper should include a copy of any product from the intern’s duties, eg., reports, etc.

With the final paper, each student will submit a two page evaluation of her/his internship placement. This evaluation should focus on what their duties were, whether it was a good learning experience, whether supervision was adequate, and whether the placement would be recommended to future interns. These evaluations will be separate from the final paper as they will be made available to future students in the program.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 17</td>
<td>Intro, C1</td>
<td>Paper 1 due</td>
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<td>Jan. 31</td>
<td>C2, C3</td>
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<td>Feb. 14</td>
<td>C4, C5</td>
<td>Paper 2 due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 14</td>
<td>C6, C7</td>
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<td>Mar. 21</td>
<td>no class</td>
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<td>Apr. 4</td>
<td>C8, C9</td>
<td>last class meeting</td>
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<td>Apr. 18</td>
<td>C10</td>
<td>Final paper due</td>
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<td>May 1</td>
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