

COURSE SYLLABUS

ECONOMICS INTERNSHIP COURSE - ECON. 4939

Professor Jane Lillydahl
Phone (303) 449-1447
Email: Jane.Lillydahl@Colorado.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 5:00-6:00
(or by appointment)

Course Prerequisite: Students must be junior or senior Economics majors or minors and have permission of the instructor.

Course Credits and Requirements: Economics majors receive 6 hours of credit for the internship course, three of which count toward the 32/33 hours required for the Economics major. The other 3 hours are general college elective hours. Students in the class must fill an intern position that utilizes their economics background and must spend approximately 15 hours per week at the work site. Students may find their own internships, may check with me for recommendations, or may go through Career Services. The internship must be lined up and approved by me by the end of the first week of classes.

Course Objectives: The first objective of the course is to give students real-world experience in a workplace setting where the students can employ their economic knowledge. The internship is to be a learning experience and it is expected that the interns will receive mentoring on-the-job. It is not expected that they will be paid for the internship, though you may receive compensation. The second objective of the internship course is to learn about the economics of the workplace. This will be accomplished through readings and class discussions.

Course Assignments: There will be a number of short written assignments and oral presentations throughout the course. For each written assignment, a one-page typed brief will be required which presents the labor economics and business issues. The papers should not repeat the facts of the chapter/book, but instead should give your ideas/opinions regarding the issues raised in the reading or tie in relevant current event issues. You can also relate the readings to your internships. I expect the briefs to be well written, analytical, and carefully thought out. The briefs are due the day the assignment is discussed in class and no credit will be given for those turned in late.

Course Materials:

(1) The New American Workplace. O'Toole and Lawrence (2006)

(2) Guts! Kevin and Jackie Freiberg, Doubleday Press (2004)

(3) Mavericks at Work: Why the Most Original Minds in Business Win. Taylor and LaBarre (2006)

(4) The Only Investment Guide You'll Ever Need. Andrew Tobias, Harcourt Brace (2005)

(5) One of the following books (or another current business book that I approve): Good to Great, Built to Last, What Management Is, Free Agent Nation, The Whole New Mind, The Five

Patterns of Extraordinary Careers, The Southwest Airlines Way, First Break All The Rules, Blue Mountain, In Search of Excellence. (Wait until class has started before you buy one of these books.)

Grading Policy: The grade for the internship will be based on the following:

- 1/3 Written assignments (ten one-page papers)
- 1/3 Feedback from internship employer*
- 1/3 Class participation [attendance, oral presentations, and quality (not quantity) of participation] Students are expected to share their workplace experiences with the class.

*If I cannot get appropriate feedback from the intern's workplace, I will shift the weights for the particular student to 1/2 written work and 1/2 class participation.

Class Meetings

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| January 17 | Overview of the course. |
| January 24 | Read <u>The New American Workplace</u> , Part 2, pp. 25-79
Turn in résumé and one-page brief. |
| Jan 31 | Read <u>The New American Workplace</u> , Part 3, pp. 81-147
Write one-page brief
Presentations on internships begin. |
| Feb. 7 | Read <u>The New American Workplace</u> , Part 4, pp. 149-214
Write one-page brief |
| Feb. 14 | Read <u>The New American Workplace</u> , pp. 215-244 and Introduction pp. 3-18
Write one-page brief |
| Feb. 21 | Read <u>Guts</u> pp. 1-104 (skip "gut check" sections)
Write one-page brief |
| Feb. 28 | Read <u>Guts</u> pp. 111-267 (skip "gut check" sections)
Write one-page brief |
| March 7 | No class
Attend one Career Service's event anytime during the semester in lieu of 3/7 class. For example, you could attend an etiquette dinner, resume workshop, panel presentation on interns' experiences or on professionals from various economics fields discussing their careers, etc. Write one paragraph of which activity you attended and whether or not it was worthwhile. Turn in paragraph by the end of the semester (required, but won't be graded) |

- March 14 Read Mavericks at Work, Part 1
Write one-page brief
- March 21 Read Mavericks at Work, Part 2
Write a one-page brief
Class presentations on various business books begin.
- April 4 Read Mavericks at Work, Part 3
Write one-page brief
Class presentations on various business books.
- April 11 Read Mavericks at Work, Part 4
No write-up due on this reading.
Class presentations on various business books.
- April 18 Class presentations on various business books.
- April 25 Class presentations on various business books. _____
- May 2 Read The Only Investment Guide You'll Even Need. General class
discussion
Write one-page brief

*Beginning Jan. 31, two or three students per class session will each give 15-20 minute presentations discussing their internships. Students are expected to discuss the nature and scope of the firm, the firm's business/strategic plans, the organizational structure, the motivational strategies of the firm, as well as the intern's responsibilities.