

# COURSE SYLLABUS

## ECONOMICS INTERNSHIP COURSE - ECON. 4939

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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 interns 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) A Whole New Mind Daniel Pink (2005)

(3) The Bogleheads' Guide to Investing Larimore et al (2006)

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

(5) One of the following books (or another current business book that I approve): Guts!, Good to Great, Built to Last, What Management Is, Free Agent Nation, Wikipedia, The Five Patterns of Extraordinary Careers, The Southwest Airlines Way, Nuts, First Break All The Rules, In Search of Excellence, The Only Investment Guide You'll Ever Need, Adventure Capitalist, Rigged, The 4-Hour Workweek, Running Money

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 (eleven 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

- |            |                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 16 | Overview of the course.                                                                                                                                   |
| January 23 | Read <u>The New American Workplace</u> , Part 2, pp. 25-79<br>Turn in résumé and one-page brief.                                                          |
| Jan 30     | Read <u>The New American Workplace</u> , Part 3, pp. 81-147<br>Write one-page brief<br>Presentations on internships begin.                                |
| Feb. 6     | Read <u>The New American Workplace</u> , Part 4, pp. 149-214<br>Write one-page brief                                                                      |
| Feb. 13    | Read <u>The New American Workplace</u> , pp. 215-244 and Introduction pp. 3-18<br>Write one-page brief                                                    |
| Feb. 20    | Read <u>A Whole New Mind</u> , p. 1-61<br>Write one-page brief                                                                                            |
| Feb. 27    | Read <u>Bogleheads' Guide</u> , p. 3-73<br>Write one-page brief                                                                                           |
| March 5    | No class<br>Attend one Career Service's event anytime during the semester in lieu of 3/5 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 12 Read Boglehead's Guide, p. 75-167  
Write one-page brief
- March 19 Read Boglehead's Guide, p. 169 -255 and 265-270  
Write a one-page brief  
Class presentations on various business books begin.
- Spring Break
- April 2 Read Mavericks at Work, Part 1  
Write one-page brief  
Class presentations on various business books.
- April 9 Read Mavericks at Work, Part 2  
Write one-page brief.  
Class presentations on various business books.
- April 16 Read Mavericks at Work, Part 3  
Write one-page brief  
Class presentations on various business books.
- April 23 Read Mavericks at Work, Part 4  
No one-page brief  
Class presentations on various business books. \_\_\_\_\_
- April 30 Class presentations on various business books

\*Beginning Jan. 30, 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.