

PHIL 4960: Internship (Syllabus Template - 2018)

CRN:

INSTRUCTOR:

CONTACT:

OFFICE HOURS:

NOTE: This is a template for the internship course syllabus, not an actual syllabus. It may be completed or modified at the supervisor's discretion, depending on the needs of the student and the nature of the internship.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course allows majors and minors to apply and improve their philosophical skills outside the classroom, while also developing further career competencies in a professional work environment.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: The internship course has three main learning objectives. The first objective is for the student to gain valuable work experience in a field that is related to his or her philosophical interests. The second objective is to increase the *connection* between the student's philosophical skills and the career-readiness competencies integral to career success. The third learning objective is to improve the student's ability to *demonstrate* those career-readiness competencies in writing, conversation, and/or the appropriate electronic medium.

GRADES:

- Meetings with faculty supervisor: 25% of total grade
- Three writing assignments: 75% of total grade (25% each)
- Scale for final course grade: A+ = 98–100; A = 93–97; A- = 90–92; B+ = 87–89; B = 83–86; B- = 80–82; C+ = 77–79; C = 73–76; C- = 70–72; D = 60–69; F = 0–59.

MEETINGS & PARTICIPATION: The student is expected to meet with the faculty supervisor three times during the semester. Consistency, engagement, and preparation for the meetings are a crucial component of the course.

1. The purpose of the first meeting is to set the research agenda and get philosophically oriented for the internship. The faculty supervisor will guide the student through the process of doing research on the topics directly related to the internship. Students will be instructed in the use of resources such as J-Stor, philpapers.org, the philosopher's index, etc. The student is then responsible for generating a short reading list (e.g., 1-2 philosophy books or 3–6 journal articles). Students should expect oral or written feedback on the list from his or her supervisor.
2. The second meeting has two purposes. First, the student and supervisor will discuss the student's experience with the internship. Second, there will be a discussion of selected materials from the reading list. The student is expected to have submitted the first writing assignment in advance of the second meeting.

3. The third, and final, meeting also has two purposes. The first purpose is to discuss the overall trajectory of the internship, highlights of the work experience, and future career plans. The second is to discuss the student's second writing assignment, which must be submitted in advance of the meeting.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

TBA

ASSIGNMENTS: The student must complete three short writing assignments for this course. A description of the assignments is below. Details may be modified at the faculty supervisor's discretion.

1. The first writing assignment is a critical summary of the assigned readings. The student is expected to write a brief paper that summarizes the key points of the readings, identifies any particularly important strengths or weaknesses of the arguments, and reflects on the subject matter in light of the internship or general employment sector in which he or she intends to pursue a career (e.g., government, retail management, political activism, entrepreneurship, and so on).
2. For the second assignment, the student must write a short paper in response to the following prompt. The recommended paper length is 2–4 pages. *What special skills and attributes does a philosopher bring to this particular type of organization or work environment? Why does the organization need employees with a background in philosophy? Try to illustrate with at least one example taken from the work experienced gained during the first half of the semester.* The student should be thinking here about the contributions he or she can make as a philosopher to the organization or general sector of employment. [This prompt can be modified by the faculty supervisor at his or her discretion.]
3. For the third assignment, the student must write a short paper in response to the following prompt. The recommended paper length is 2–4 pages. *Please describe a specific opportunity for change observed at the organization. Where did you seem room for improvement? Then describe how you would bring your philosophical skills to bear on the situation. Explain how philosophy could be used to improve the organization. Try to propose a specific change or set of changes.* [This prompt can be modified by the faculty supervisor at his or her discretion. The third writing assignment can be replaced by some other means of demonstrating career readiness, such as a website or video interview. This is also at the supervisor's discretion.]