

ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE

Fall 2020

COURSE NAME: Business Internship Seminar
COURSE NUMBER: BA 474 (Four credits)
MEETING TIME: W (3:30 – 4:45) Online by Zoom
FACULTY SPONSOR: Dr. Hossein Varamini
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VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS: M, W, F 2:00 - 3:30
Th 4:00 – 5:00
and by appointment

PRE AND/OR CO-REQUISITS:

Complete at least 160 hours on the internship assignment satisfactorily over a minimum of 12 weeks.

Business, International Business, Marketing, Economics or Financial Economics Major; any Minor in the Dept. of Business; junior or senior standing, with at least a G.P.A. of 2.75 in the major; consent of Instructor; and pre-approved placement.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Classroom education cannot teach all the elements of knowledge required for a successful career. On-the-job experience can clearly enhance the students' learning and is a valuable supplement to classroom instruction. The seminar is to act as a regular forum for students sharing in discussion of ideas, problems and issues related to the internships of the student participants. The purpose of this course is to assist students in the learning process of reflection, analysis, and integration of experiences and insights gained through their internships with the academic theory, principles, concepts, and social and ethical dimensions of the discipline and subject area. In addition to academic goals, this course--combining abstract/theoretical and experience learning through an internship setting--is intended to further students' lifelong learning skills, professional and public speaking skills, strengthening of personal and professional values and ethics, clarification of personal and career goals, and achievement of self-confidence.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

After successful completion of this internship seminar, students will be able to:

1. Explain their duties as interns
2. Describe how their internship projects were related to their course work.
3. Describe the organizational structure of their internship sites.
4. Analyze the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) of the organization as they relate to the student's internship experience.
5. Conduct a research project relating the internship experience to career/lifelong goals.

READINGS:

Students are expected to find articles related to their career goals, concentration, internship experience (type of industry, organization, trends, etc.) in order to fully take advantage of the internship learning opportunity. They are also strongly encouraged to periodically review the following readings and to incorporate the relevant materials in their class discussions, written assignments, and at the internship site, if appropriate.

1. Images of the Organization, by Gareth Morgan, 2007 by Sage Publications.
2. Critical Thinking: How to Prepare Students for a Rapidly Changing World, by Richard Paul, published by Foundation for Critical Thinking.
3. Critical thinking skills: Developing effective analysis and argument by Stella Cottrell, published by Palgrave McMillan, 2011.
4. Creative Thinking in the Decision and Management Sciences, by James R. Evans, published by South-Western Publishing Company.
5. Business analysis techniques: 72 essential tools for success, by J Cadle, D Paul, P Turner , published by BSIL, 2010 ,
6. Who Stole my Cheese? By Ilene Hochberg, Running Press, London, 2003.
7. "The Learning Model of Experiential Education: A Guide to Decision-Making," by Shari L. Peterson and Mary K. Nelson, published in the Journal of Cooperative Education, No. 22(3), 1986.
8. Additional readings/assignments may be given in class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

It is clear that the work done or a description of the field experience is not sufficient for academic credit; there must also be evidence of reflective analysis and interpretation of the experience which relates it to the basic theory in related areas. More specifically, students in this course must be able to connect different aspects of their internships with their prior academic preparations and to analyze, compare and evaluate these experiences. Students also need to demonstrate observation and recording skills, interpersonal communication skills, analytical skills, report writing skills, and oral presentation skills.

The specific requirements for the course are:

1. **Learning Contract:** Each student will develop a Learning Contract to be approved by the faculty advisor and the internship supervisor.
 - a. The student develops a first-pass draft of the Learning Contract which will state the student's learning objectives, as well as itemize the specific types of experiences the student will be engaged in or will encounter through the internship. The final Learning Contract should be typed and is due no later than **Wednesday, September 9, 2020**.
 - b. The student may meet with the instructor to finalize learning objectives, add statements of relationship to relevant theory, and discuss independent study readings and research to be integrated with the placement. Readings may include material new to the student, as well as previously encountered material which the student will further learn to utilize in various "real-world" applications at the internship site.
2. **Bi-Weekly Reports:** Students are required to submit several short reports, normally every other week, to

discuss and analyze different aspects of their internship experiences and relate them to their academic work at the college. These bi-weekly reports include, but are not limited to, discussion of the organization, its management system, its marketing approach as well as conducting a SWOT analysis.

In order to better prepare your bi-weekly reports, I would like to suggest you keep a daily journal exhibiting different components of your internship experience. (A brief note is attached to this syllabus to guide you in journal preparations). These journal entries are for your own use to learn more from your internship experience and you do not need to submit them to me. However, the notes in your journal help you write a reflective report every two weeks based on assigned topics by the instructor. In order to prepare reflective and analytical papers, when you observe something and record it in your journal, also ask yourself: "What do I make of it? Why? How does it relate to other experiences? Does this type of management system make sense in this organization? How have they developed this type of marketing mix? How does this internship relate to my courses?" In other words, you are expected to relate your internship experience to some of your courses and to apply course materials to the real-world experiences, whenever feasible.

Bi-weekly reports should be typed, double-spaced, font size 12, pages numbered, and about 3-4 pages.

3. **Class Participation and Attendance:** Seminar sessions will be held every two weeks on Zoom during the semester. Students should be prepared to share their observations, experiences, interpretations, and reflections with other students in the seminar. The instructor's role in the seminar is to guide the discussion and sharing, assist in student assimilation and synthesis of experience and academic material, and offer suggestions in resolving any problems/difficulties the student is experiencing. Students are expected to suggest and discuss topics related to their internship experiences.

Class participation will be assessed with respect to one's participation in class discussions with fellow students. Evaluation will be based on the judgment of the instructor as to the quality and quantity of contribution in class. *It is important that you not only attend class, but also share your thoughts and feelings. Each student should be prepared to discuss his/her experience, observations, readings, interpretations, and reflections with others in the seminar.* Students are *required* to attend all of the seminar sessions and participate in the class discussions. Remember, if you don't attend, you can't participate. And if you don't participate, you can't expect a passing grade for the class discussion component.

4. **Book Report:** Each student is expected to read a book in the specific discipline of the internship experience as approved by the faculty supervisor and submit a 5-8 page book report. The report must include a few pages of critique (a critical analysis of the book by the student) relating the contents of the book to the internship experience and/or other standards of review. The analytical typewritten book report must be handed in to the faculty supervisor by **Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2020**. The book report will be evaluated by using the following criteria:

- a. Summary of the material presented in the book
- b. Critical review (analysis) of material presented in the book
- c. Organization and systematic write-up
- d. Relevancy to the internship experience
- e. Clarity

- f. Proper use of English language
- g. Neatness of the paper

5. **Critical Incident Exercise:** Due to the problem-solving nature of the internship experience, each student in this course is expected to identify some "critical incident" from his/her internship experience and analyze it in some depth. A critical experience is an experience that in your opinion has had a marked impact on you as a person, particularly in light of your learning objectives. A handout in class will specify some of the important components of this requirement. The due date for this assignment is **Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2020**.
6. **Final Research Paper:** Each student will complete a research paper of about 15 double-spaced type written pages and submit it to the faculty supervisor by **Monday, Nov. 25, 2020**. Any exceptions to this policy must be clarified with the faculty supervisor at the beginning of the internship assignment. The research assignment requires that research be conducted in an area related to the internship experience and that the findings be reported in an analytical and objective manner. The research report should not be a purely descriptive paper or an opinion paper.

Evaluation of the research paper will be based on the following criteria:

- a. Appropriateness and depth of the subject material
- b. Analysis of the topic
- c. Review of Appropriate literature
- d. Ability to summarize and compare opinions and findings of others
- e. Organization and presentation of material
- f. Proper documentation of source materials
- g. Clarity, neatness and organization of the paper
- h. Proper use of English language
- i. Completeness of the paper
- j. Presentation of the paper in class

Name of topic, tentative outline and summary of source material must be submitted to and approved by faculty supervisor before the start of the research project.

Each student will also make a presentation of his/her research paper to class by Zoom on **Wed., Dec. 2, 2020**.

FORMAT FOR WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

All written reports submitted to the instructor should be typed, double-spaced, and editorially correct (spelling, grammar, sentence structure, and so on). A copy of each graded assignment, with the instructor's comments, will be kept on file.

Please do not use plastic holders when you turn in your papers. A simple staple in the upper left hand corner is all that is necessary.

GRADING POLICY:

If this course is not a requirement for your major, you have the option of registering in it as a “Pass/No Pass” course or take it for a letter grade. The following weights will be used in a “letter” course:

1.	Learning Contract	5%
2.	Bi-Weekly Reports	25%
3.	Class Participation and Attendance	20%
4.	Critical Incident Exercise	10%
5.	Book Report	10%
6.	Final Research Paper and Presentation	<u>30%</u>
		100%

The normal grading system of 93% or above is an A, 90-92% is an A-, 87-89% is a B+, 83-86% is a B, etc., will be used to determine the grade for this 4-credit course. Students are expected to turn in the assignments on the due dates.

In accordance with the policy of the College, no credit will be given for an internship course on a retroactive basis.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

All students are expected to adhere to the Pledge of Integrity, as outlined in the College catalog. Some items that apply specifically in this course are as follows:

- a. All written reports should be the result of your own work.
- b. You need to clearly and completely identify your sources of information for all of your written work.

Any violation of the **Pledge of Integrity** will be dealt with in accordance with the procedure set forth in the Student Handbook. Appropriate classroom decorum involves treating others with respect in the classroom, arriving on time, and not leaving early unless absolutely necessary. If you must leave early, please advise the instructor before the class session.

STATEMENT ON DISABILITY:

Elizabethtown College welcomes otherwise qualified students with disabilities to participate in all of its courses, programs, services, and activities. If you have a documented disability and would like to request accommodations in order to access course material, activities, or requirements, please contact the Director of Disability Services, Lynne Davies, by phone (717-361-1227) or e-mail daviesl@etown.edu. If your documentation meets the college's documentation guidelines, you will be given a letter from Disability Services for each of your professors. Students experiencing certain documented temporary conditions, such as post-concussive symptoms, may also qualify for temporary academic accommodations and adjustments. As early as possible in the semester, set up an appointment to meet with me, the instructor, to discuss the academic adjustments specified in your accommodations letter as they pertain to my class.

STATEMENT ON SCHOOL CLOSURE:

In the event that the College is officially closed during the semester due to inclement weather conditions or for any

other reasons, please watch you email for a message from the instructor about any missed work, possible changes in due dates or any assignment.

STATEMENT ON RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES:

The College is willing to accommodate individual religious beliefs and practices. It is your responsibility to meet with the class instructor in advance to request accommodation related to your religious observances that may conflict with this class, and to make appropriate plans to make up any missed work.

**Elizabethtown College
Department of Business**

A Guideline to Keeping a Journal

Keeping a journal will be an important part of your learning experience as an intern. By forcing you to think about

what you are doing and what you are learning from it, the writing of a journal can increase the amount you actually learn. It can also make you aware of what you don't know, so that you can direct your efforts toward finding out.

You should write in your journal at least briefly every day that you work at your internship. Keeping current in your writing is important because it lets you keep track of how your perceptions and understanding change from day to day and week to week, thereby documenting your learning.

You do not need to turn-in your journal entries to the instructor. They are useful tools for you to maximize your learning from the internship experience and help you in writing your bi-weekly reports.

Your journal typically includes these elements:

1. A daily log of what you do. This should be as brief as possible, but try to be precise. E.g., "research at the library on consumer attitude toward beer advertising" is better than "research on beer."
2. Questions. If there's something you want to know, write it down. If you later learn the answer, write that down, too--not necessarily on the same day. Curiosity is the first essential for learning, so the more questions, the better. Try to have at least one question every day that you work.
3. Insights, observations, perceptions, interesting incidents. After you have logged your day's activity, think about what it meant to you, what you got out of it, new things you noticed, etc.
4. Discussion. Once a week, write a page (or more) in which you discuss some topic of your choice more fully--either a particular incident or insight, or your reaction to the week as a whole. Try to analyze your experience, interpret your observations, compare events, evaluate outcomes, make judgments, and justify your position.
5. Likes and dislikes--about the work, the office, the political system, the world, yourself.
6. New words. Once a week, write down any new terms you've learned during the week--or, if you've heard them but not understood what they meant, write that down. Learning specialized vocabulary is a big part of any field.