

INTERNSHIP IN CRIMINOLOGY

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Office Hours: by appointment

This course is primarily designed for students who wish to acquire practical work experience in the criminal justice or legal advocacy field. Some students find placements in law firms, state agencies, courts, or social service organizations. In most cases these internships are unpaid, but in some cases they are paid positions. Undergraduates typically take this course in their junior or senior year as a way to find out more about what it is like to work in one of the many settings in the criminal justice or law fields that sociology majors take jobs in after graduating from college. While the course is not restricted to sociology students, non majors should keep in mind that it is expected that sociological concepts and questions will inform the papers you write. Strong written work will be expected in addition to the time spent and work done in connection with your actual internship placement. This academic work will enable you to think analytically and more in depth about intellectual interests arising out of your internship experience.

Note that **we will be meeting 2/27 to discuss/share your internship experience and to refine final paper/project topics.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. You must prepare a 3,000-4,000 word term paper *that in some way relates to your internship. Some students may choose to do a paper or project that may be of use to their placement.* This paper is due **5/1/06** (by 4:00 p.m.; put it in my mailbox in McGuinn 426). The paper must make extensive use of sociological concepts and demonstrate your ability to draw on sociological sources for your conceptualization. You must e-mail me by **2/27/05** to get your topic approved. You are strongly urged to make extensive use of academic sources; it is a mistake to base your paper primarily on newspaper, magazine, and internet sources. If you take this course pass/fail, you are exempt from this term paper requirement.
2. You must keep a journal with entries on at least a weekly basis. This journal will primarily deal with your internship experience. It must be both descriptive and analytic. Your journal will be due on or before **5/1/06**. If your handwriting is very clear, there is no need to type it up. Be sure to include a summary at the end of what you got out of your internship experience including a discussion of what recommendations you may have for your workplace.
3. You must spend at least 100 hours over the course of the term at your internship placement. This work must be completed on or before **5/1/06**.
4. At your internship placement you must obtain a supervisor. This person must agree to submit a written evaluation of your work by **5/1/06**. This is to be a confidential letter to me. If your supervisor wants to e-mail the letter to me that is fine, but it is up to you to make sure that letter has been sent and received.

COURSE GRADING:

The grade for the course will be determined on a point system as follows:

(50%) on the final paper

(50%) on Internship (based on information from the letter and journal)

COURSE READING:

Most students will do a substantial amount of reading in connection with the term paper for this course. The actual amount of reading will generally be greater if it is a library research paper than if it is a paper based on research calling for extensive empirical data collection. How much reading do you do if it is a library research paper? I would suggest (at a minimum) something on the order of 15 or more scholarly sources (professional books, articles in professional books, journal articles) in addition to any other items from more popular sources (e.g., the internet items, newspapers, magazines, college textbooks, etc.).