



Boston University Study Abroad
Boston University Washington, DC Programs

INTERNSHIP COURSE SEMINAR -- The Washington Experience
Study Abroad 400E [4 credits]
Course Outline – Summer 2013
Instructor: Walter S. Montaña

The Washington DC Internship Course Seminar – a.k.a. the “**Washington Experience**” -- is both an academic and *participation-driven* course tied to your Internship this semester. While your internship does not provide you with direct academic credit, this course is a supplement to your internship and complements what you will be learning and practicing daily on your job. The class is meant to guide you as you train yourself to become a working professional in or out of Washington. If your aim is to pursue a career in the nation’s capital, this course can only help you. If you realize later in the semester that D.C. is not in your future, this course is also meant to help by addressing very specific questions regarding your future, your work ethic, tips on networking, and approaches to the job market, along with several other key issues related to career development.

During our *seven* sessions this summer – which does not include field trips where you will also earn credit for *this* class -- you will also acquire a much better understanding about how Washington works, what issues are of utmost importance and concern on the political landscape, and, you’ll confront some of the topics that divide our government, those who lead us, and our nation today. The course is meant to nudge you a bit, in thinking about vital subjects affecting our society and our way of life. If you leave this class and this semester in D.C. thinking just a bit more about the challenges we face as a people and if you’re more comfortable dissecting the issues and analyzing them a bit more in aiming to find long- and short-term solutions, we will have met our objective. If you feel just a bit more empowered in taking certain steps in preparing for your career ahead, the course will have maximized on its purpose

Because we meet roughly every other week, and because we only meet for about 60 minutes per session (with the exception of the final session), **attendance is mandatory**. What follows is a breakdown of the course and sessions we will hold in the coming eight-10 weeks. I look forward to working with you all and ‘wrestling’ with the topics we’ll cover.

(over)

Breakdown of credit/grades:

Goal Statement & Letter of Agreement	5%
Journal (due mid-semester & end of the semester)	20%
Paper #1 (includes a presentation to the class)	20%
Paper # 2	20%
Participation (Includes Field Trips and Final Presentation)	20%
Supervisor Evaluation	15%

Topics/Readings covered in class will be posted on Blackboard the week *prior* to meeting and/or will be emailed to you or physically provided by the instructor.

The course will cover the following topics on the dates indicated:

Wednesday, 5 June – Contact Information/Setting Goals – Drafting a Letter/Contract of Agreement; First Day(s) on the Job (Reactions); Tips for Launching a Successful FIRST week on the job!

Wednesday, 12 June -- Recapping Goals and the first week on the job ... the Internship Experience one week in. Challenges and the ‘culture’ in your office. The Political Mood in DC & Partisan Politics today. [Assigned readings given prior to class]
(Goal Statement & Letter/Contract Due)

Tuesday, 25 June -- The Viability of Democracy. Is it all it’s worth? Are democratic nations setting good examples for the rest of the world? [Assigned readings given prior]
(Journal I Due)

Wednesday, 3 July – What Type of Organization do I work for? Organizational Analysis. Mid-Semester Synopsis (In-class Presentations; Paper I due)

Wednesday, 17 July – Understanding President Obama & Obama’s Washington. Is a divided Congress a good Congress? [Assigned readings given prior]

Wednesday, 24 July – The Influence of the Media on Washington; Media and its influence on those in power; Re-examining the ‘art’ of Debate in Washington; in-class ‘debates’ [previously assigned teams/topics; assigned readings given prior] (Paper II Due)

**** Wednesday, 7 August** -- Final Analysis & Lessons Learned; Goal Reassessment; Networking Tips and General Insights on Careers in DC. Final Presentations (Journal II Due). (**) Plan for a two-hour session