PAX 89a: Internship in Peace, Conflict, and Coexistence Studies

Fall 2015

Daniel Terris
Thursdays, 2:00 – 3:50 p.m.

Instructor information:

Daniel Terris
Abraham Shapiro Academic Complex, Room 308
Campus phone: 781-736-2110
Email: terris@brandeis.edu
Office Hours: Please schedule appointments by email

Short description:

In this course, students will reflect on and write about their summer internship experiences in the context of their own areas of academic inquiry. Students will explore collectively a variety of perspectives on the process of social change, and they will discuss the ethical dimensions of service and the process of documentation.

Learning Goals

Students successfully completing this course will be able to:

Describe the situations experienced in their summer internships in compelling prose that deepens understanding of individual people, organizations, and communities

Ground their understanding of their summer experiences in an intellectual framework built on one or more aspects of their academic undertakings at Brandeis University

Reflect deeply on the ethical implications of service and work in both familiar and unfamiliar communities, and on the ethical implications of documenting the lives of people, organizations, and communities encountered.

Assess and edit the writing of peers through clear articulation of the particular strengths and weaknesses of one another’s essays

Work collaboratively to synthesize collective knowledge and present it in a compelling fashion to a broader community.
Evaluation:

Grades for this course will be based on the following criteria:

- Timely submission of written assignments, including the draft and final essay
- Responsiveness of written assignments and essays to the specific assignment instructions
- Care and attention to editing and polishing written assignments and essays
- Sustained attention in writing and in class discussion to the integration of students’ academic interests and perspectives with their internship experiences
- Active and reliable participation in class discussions, peer editing, and other activities designed to fortify the collective knowledge of the group
- Active and reliable participation in the planning and execution of the PAX 89 public presentation

Individual written assignments will NOT be graded. However, students will receive an overall assessment of where their grade “stands,” with comments, in early October and early November.

Disabilities:

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see the instructor immediately.

Academic Integrity:

You are expected to be familiar with and to follow the University’s policies on academic integrity (see http://www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/sdc/ai). The instructor will refer any suspected instances of alleged dishonesty to the Office of Student Development and Conduct. Instances of academic dishonesty may result in sanctions including but not limited to failure in the course, failure on the assignment in question, suspension from the University and/or educational programs.

Texts

There will be no assigned books for the course. All readings will be available on LATTE. Please note that we will read a number of essays written by student fellows over the years with assignments to be determined. All essays are available at http://www.brandeis.edu/ethics/publications/sorensen_publications.html. Students are responsible for bringing assigned readings with them to class, in either a printed or on-line format where they can easily access the text(s) during discussions.

Attendance

We have only a limited number of classes, and class participation and interaction is vital. Students are expected to attend all classes except in case of illness or emergency.

Note

Success in this 4 credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 6 hours of study time per week in preparation for class. It is understood that academic work in this class integrates time spent on internships and writing involving more than 200 hours over a period of 8-10 weeks during summer 2015.
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Course Plan

1. Introduction

    Th 8/27   2:00 p.m.  Introduction

2. Place and Perspective

    T 9/1  11:59 p.m.  Writing Assignment Due: A Place
    Th 9/3   2:00 p.m.  Class: “Place” essays; Integrating Academic Interests

    Readings: Alice Goffman, *On the Run*, Introduction and Chapter 1; Student Fellowship essay by Ibrahima Diaboula ‘16.

3. Experiences in the Field: A Collective Reconsideration

    M 9/7    6:00 p.m.: Pizza and Informal conversation about summer 2015
    Th 9/10  2:00 p.m.: NO CLASS (Brandeis Monday)

4. Inquiry and Observation

    T 9/15 11:59 p.m.  Writing Assignment Due: Academics and Experience
    Th 9/17  2:00 p.m.  Class:  Academic integration; The impact of individuals

    Assignment: Come prepared for 9/17 class to discuss an academic approach or method that you will be drawing on for your final essay

    Reading: Sara Lawrence Lightfoot, *Respect*, 55-89; Student Fellow essay by Dana Sawitz ‘08

    Th 9/24  2:00 p.m.  NO CLASS

5. Individuals and Organizations

    T 9/29 11:59 p.m.  Writing Assignment Due: A Person
    Th 10/1  2:00 p.m.  Class: Individuals and Organizations

    Readings:  Kidder, *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, 18-44; Student Fellow essay by Paul Sukijathamapan ‘13

6. Service and Ethnography: Ethical Considerations

    Th 10/8  2:00 p.m.  Class:  Service and Ethnography: Ethical Considerations

    Readings: Alice Goffman, *On the Run* (Methodology); Steven Lubet, “Ethics On The Run”; Leon Neyfakh, “The Ethics of Ethnography”; Student Fellow essay by Ramon De Jesus ‘08
7. Organizations and Communities

**T 10/13** 11:59 p.m.  **Writing Assignment Due: An Organization**
Th 10/15  2:00 p.m.  **Class: Organizations**

Reading:  Student Fellow Essay by Haley Magee ‘15

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8. Vocation and Occupation

Th 10/22  2:00 p.m.  **Class: Guest speaker, Ariele Cohen, Student Fellow 1998**

Reading:  Student Fellow essay by Lisa Kim ‘06

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9. Communities and Change

**T 10/27** 11:59 p.m.  **Writing assignment due: Communities and Change**
Th 10/29  2:00 p.m.  **Class: Communities and Change**

Reading:  Student Fellow Essay by Joshua Russell ‘06

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10. Towards Conclusions

Th 11/5  2:00 p.m.  **Class: Writing conclusions**

Reading:  t.b.d.

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11. Second Chances

**S 11/8** 11:59 p.m.  **First draft of final essay due**
Th 11/12:  2:00 p.m.  **Class: Polishing and Editing**

Reading:  Student Fellow Draft/Essay t.b.d

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12. Collective Understandings

**S 11/15** 11:59 p.m.  **Final Draft of Essay Due**
Th 11/19  2:00 p.m.  **Class: Discussion of 2015 Essays; Presentation Planning**

Readings:  2015 Student Fellow Essays t.b.d.

Th 12/3  2:00 p.m.  **Class: Discussion of 2015 Essays; Presentation Planning**

Readings:  2015 Student Fellow Essays t.b.d.

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13. Going Public

Th 12/10  12:00 p.m.  **Public Presentation and Publication Party**