

Internship in Religious Studies

RELI 5000: Practicum in Religious Studies

Instructor: Dr. Mary Nyangweso

Austin 325A

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Course Description:

Internships provide students with valuable experience in non-profit, educational, faith-based, governmental, and related organizations. Students interested in internship will take RELI 5000: Practicum in Religious Studies. This course allows a student to earn credit for completing 140 hours of internship work with a community agency. In addition, students must complete all written assignments, attend all class meetings (4 per semester), and write a final paper. The objective of the internship is to enable a student the opportunity to translate the knowledge and analytic skills learned in various courses into a professional and real life context. This experience enables the student to explore potential career paths and professional opportunities. This course may count towards your Religious Studies electives, or towards concentration electives.

Requirements and Evaluation: Students must complete 10 hours per week at the arranged internship site, complete all written assignments, attend all scheduled class meetings and complete the final paper.

- ***Internship Hours (40% of final course grade):*** Students must complete 10 hours per week at the internship site. No more than 20% (2 hours per week) should be spent on purely administrative tasks. Any change in schedule (“banking” hours or making up missed hours) must be approved in advance by both the agency supervisor and your Instructor (see Appendix A).
- ***Written Assignments (20% of final course grade):*** All written assignments must be submitted on time, in hard copy format. No emailed assignments will be accepted without prior, written approval. Late assignments will not be accepted under any circumstances, and the student will receive a zero for any assignments not accepted for any reason. All assignments must be typed, in 12 point font, double spaced with one inch margins and turned in at the mid-term meeting and with your final paper (see Appendix B).
- ***Attendance at scheduled class meetings (20% of final course grade):*** Regular, punctual attendance is required. You are expected to participate in the class discussion. Merely “showing up” is not sufficient. This will account for 20% of your final course grade.
- ***Meetings will be held at 5-7pm on the following dates:***
 - January 13
 - February 3
 - March 2
 - April 6

Students will plan to share on experiences in the field

- **Final Paper (20% of final course grade):** Each student must submit a final paper, typed, double spaced, in 12 point font, with one inch margins by April 28th at 5:00pm. You may leave the papers in the Sociology Department, where they will be time/date stamped. Emailed papers will not be accepted without prior, written approval. Late papers will not be accepted under any circumstances (See Appendix C).

• **Grading:** The University has adopted a +/- system. There is no A+. I reserve the right to round up to the nearest whole letter grade for students who attend class, participate regularly and put forth extra effort. 93-100 - A 90-92 - A- 87-89- B+ 83-86- B 80-82- B- 77-79- C+ 73-76- C 70-72- C- 67-69- D+ 63-66- D 60-62- D- 59 and under -F. Students will utilize email to communicate with the instructor. As a student, ensure that you have clearly state your name and the course title and section you are enrolled. Phone calls may be used by request or meeting in person can also be arranged. Visits during office hours are encouraged. Students must avoid engaging in disruptive behavior as described in the Disruptive Academic Behavior East Carolina University. Any students who does not follow reasonable standards of behavior in the classroom or other academic setting may be removed from the course by the instructor following appropriate notice. Students removed from a course under this policy will receive a grade of “withdraw” according to university policy.

Students with Disabilities: East Carolina University seeks to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodation based on a covered disability must go to the Department for Disability Support Services, located in Slay 138, to verify the disability before any accommodations can occur. Documentation of approved disability accommodations must be provided to the instructor of each course, preferably during the first week of the semester. The phone number for Disability Services is (252) 737-2422; email is wangilam@ecu.edu.

Non Discrimination Statement: East Carolina University is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants, students, or employees based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability. Academic Integrity Statement: Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment, including exams, will earn you at least a 0 for the exam, and may earn you an F for the course as a whole. I will pursue the most severe penalty the University will allow me to administer. 3

Evacuations: The University has adopted an evacuation policy. Please follow instructions given in class and or seek a safe location should an evacuation become necessary. It is always better to be in groups of two or three if you are unable to remain with the class. For on campus emergencies, call 911 or the campus emergency hotline: 252-328-0062. Plagiarism/ Cheating: Plagiarism and/or cheating will not be tolerated. This class adheres to the university’s policies on academic dishonesty as outlined in the catalog.

Instructors Responsibility: It is the instructors responsibility not only to deliver class lectures and to evaluate your performance, but also to assist you with any other facet of your educational experience. This may include writing, study skills, or giving you referrals to other agencies or programs that can assist you with personal issues that may

Suggested Weekly Assignments

Weekly goals

Week 1: Goals

- Give your justification of this placement? Explain how this agency meet your goals as a student of Religious Studies? Which theories / theoretical framework will guide your internship?

Week 2: Demographics:

- Describe the demographics -age, race, sex, social class and religion of the members of the agency. Comment of patterns you observe? Do you think the work of the agency is impacted by its demographics?

Week 3: Structural Organization:

- How is the agency organized? Does the structural organization reflect religious values of the agency? Does this affect its effectiveness and if so, in which way?

Week 4: Historical Context:

- Document the history of the agency and be sure to describe the influence of religion on this history. What is the mission of the organization?

Week 5: Engagement

- Describe how engaged the agency is? To what extent does engagement reflect values the agency subscribes to? Do you observe areas that need improvement? What would you do towards making the agency engaging.

Week 6: Opinions about the agency:

- What do others say about the agency? How reliable are your sources? What do you think they misunderstand about the agency?

Week 7: Project Summary:

- Describe what you have learned about the organization so far? What area need improvement? How would you improve these areas that you identify?

Week 8: Gender:

- Speak specifically to issues of gender and religion. What examples do you have that depict religion and gender relations in this agency? How would you go about resolving this?

Week 9: Contribution to the Community:

- Would you say that this agency is contributing effectively to the welfare of the community? Explain your position. How would you suggest it improves towards attaining this goal?

Week 10: Race, Class, and Gender:

- Speak specifically on race relations. Have you observed depictions of racial or ethnic diversity? How would you go about addressing these issues?

Week 11: Social Transformation:

- What changes are taking place in this agency? What factors triggered this change? What change do you appreciate and which one do you disagree with?

Week 12: Lessons Learned:

- Describe the most fulfilling moments for you in this internship? What about those moments that were frustrating?

Week 13: Future Prospects

- What areas of improvements do you think this agency can establish to meet its goals?

Week 14: End of semester Summary:

- How would you rate this agency?
 - a) Effective,
 - b) Needs to make some changes
- Explain your position