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**Master Syllabus**

**Course: ECO320 Economics Internship**

**Cluster Requirement: 5B – Learning Through Engagement**

This University Studies Master Syllabus serves as a guide and standard for all instructors teaching an approved course in the University Studies program. Individual instructors have full academic freedom in teaching their courses, but as a condition of course approval, agree to focus on the outcomes listed below, to cover the identified material, to use these or comparable assignments as part of the course work, and to make available the agreed-upon artifacts for assessment of learning outcomes.

**Course Overview:**

Economics develops intellectual skills that prepare students for a wide variety of careers. The Economics Internship gives students an opportunity to apply the theories and concepts learned in their economics courses in real-world settings and to reflect on the connections between the two. Besides serving as a bridge and prelude to professional employment, the course gives students an opportunity to build their resumes and make professional connections. In a highly competitive labor market, these experiences better position students for post-graduation employment. The internship also provides an opportunity to make connections between their classroom learning and problems and concerns off-campus.

Students learn economics by doing economics. While the curriculum and active learning strategies employed by faculty facilitate that philosophy, the internship course requires students to apply their knowledge in a workplace setting. Students must work a total of 45 hours in their internship to receive the 1 course credits, 90 hours to receive 2 course credits, and 135 hours to receive 3 course credits. When and how these hours are to be completed is to be arranged in a mutually agreeable fashion between the intern and his/her supervisor. The specific work duties, etc. will be outlined in the Experience Program Registration Form and Contract which should be completed and signed by the student, the supervisor and the professor before any work begins.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Course-Specific Learning Outcomes:

1. Describe the work routines and organizational features of a particular job in economics, healthcare administration, business, government, law, or public policy.
2. Communicate effectively one’s strengths as a potential employee.
3. Identify specific contacts that could potentially lead to professional opportunities.

University Studies Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify the needs and resources of the communities to which they belong.

2. Apply knowledge and skills gained through academic study to real problems and/or opportunities within their communities.

3. Describe the connections between learning on campus and the issues and needs of broader academic, professional or civic communities.

4. Articulate the value of engagement to other members of their communities.

**Examples of Texts and/or Assigned Readings:**

None.

**Example Assignments:**

Paper Assignment

Students write a 6-10-page essay on their internship. In this paper, students use their internship experience as a case example for examining specific concepts or ideas they have learned about in their academic studies. For example, an intern in a corporation may talk about the role of marginal decision-making, profit-maximization, or the employment of resources and how the internship experiences illustrated, contradicted or extended what was learned in class. Or, an intern in a healthcare organization might relate their internship experience back to what was learned in classes about health economics, focusing perhaps on the US healthcare system, insurance, or Medicare. Students are encouraged to consult with the Internship Director about their topics.

The paper should include three key elements:

1. A discussion of the concepts or ideas, with references to the relevant courses and books. Student are encouraged to do additional reading or conduct further research on their topic.
2. A brief overview of the organization.
3. A discussion of the concept in the context of the organization.

Journal

Students are required to keep a journal, with at least one entry per week. These journal entries should address the following:

* What sorts of work activities did you engage in?
* What did you learn from your work activities?
* Were there any incidents or experiences that helped demonstrate something you had learned about in your classes on campus?
* What would it take to be successful in an organization like this one? What skills or abilities do you think are particularly important in this kind of work? How would one improve these skills and abilities?
* What did you learn about the broader community off campus—whether a local, national or professional community? What did you discover about the needs of these communities or, in contrast, what kinds of resources these communities bring to society?

**Sample Course Outline:**

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