An internship in Ghana will undoubtedly provide you more interaction with Ghanaians than any other experience of your semester abroad. Most of you will be placed in non-governmental organizations (NGOs) often concerned with development. Few agree on what is meant by “development”. Seminar participants will read articles and book chapters that will help you better understand the historical and social questions about the work of NGOs, and the private and public sector. The seminar will encourage current development discourse.

Objective of Internship course

- To facilitate learning of and appreciation of development process in Ghana
- To acquire new skills in a professional working environment
- To understand the role, mission of civil society organizations in the development process in Ghana
- To apply the practical skills acquire in the work environment of NGOs to development theory and analysis

This course is also designed to complement your internship fieldwork, exploring many different aspects of your organization. The goal for you is to have you finish the semester with an in-depth understanding of your agency, its approach, its policies, its programs, and the context in which it operates. You will also spend time reflecting on the internship experience itself as a way to better understand your academic, personal, and career goals.

Required Readings at different stages of the course


Shivji, Issa G., *Silences in NGO Discourse: The Role and Future of NGOs in Africa.*


Optional Reading:

Other Required Reading:

Throughout the semester, The Daily Graphic, Ghanaian Times and The New Statesman newspapers are required daily reading as well as a range of other relevant media sources. Pay special attention to the ways in which media coverage addresses and affects the work you are doing at your internship.

Seminar Evaluation and Grading: V99.0402.001
1. Mid-term paper (assignment to be set; min 4/5 pages double space) 15%
2. Class Participation – attendance, contributions to discussions 5%
3. Submission of all 4 evaluations forms 5%
4. Group work presentation and final paper (details to be provided) 25%

Fieldwork Evaluation and Grading: V99.0400.001
The Fieldwork is graded pass/fail. You need to attend your placements, complete the minimum requirement of 10 hours per week, submit internship goals and expectations by week 4; 8th Feb 2011 (min 2pages double spaces), submit a reflective final assessment paper on how far your expectations have been met and new learning by 6th May 2011 - 50 %

The overarching goal of the seminar is to facilitate learning and appreciation of development process in Ghana. As such the internship experience aims to provide students with new skills in a professional working environment; an understanding the role, mission of civil society organizations in the development process in Ghana and the ability to apply the practical skills acquired to development theory and analysis.

Discussions
This class is designed as small seminar and requires your consistent, engaged, and informed participation. Please complete readings and assignments prior to class and arrive on time. Your goal is to critically analyze readings and compare and contrast to internship agencies, experiences, and research projects, both yours and those of other students. You will also reflect on and discuss your experience, which requires careful observation, astute questioning, and thoughtful analysis. Your presence is essential and you will not get credit for class participation if you have more than three absences. Throughout the seminar we will maintain a comparative perspective, examining the relationships between organizations as well as studying each of them in depth. The aim is for us to become resources for each other.

TOPICS, READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1: Jan 18th 2011
Introduction
Ground Rules, Expectations and Fears
Goals and Aims of the internship experience and the course
Finalizing placements and other housekeeping issues

Week 2: Jan 25th 2011 Intercultural issues and overview of Seminar & Fieldwork Requirements
What you need to know about workplace environment in Ghana: dress code, formality and how to address another person, hierarchy and decision making process, display of emotion, religion, class, ethnicity, communication etc
What are the qualities of a successful internship? What are your intellectual, professional, and personal goals for internship & seminar?
Recommended Readings:
Ama Ata Aidoo, Dilemmas of a Ghost
Ayi Kwei Armah, The Beautiful Ones Are not Yet Born
Kofi Awoonor, Petals of blood and Rediscovery


Getting to know your NGO: Who are the key stakeholders in the internship program & at your agency? How can field notes deepen your understanding of your experience? What are the key questions you need to ask about your agency? Who are the key groups?

Readings:  Iranian Studies Group, MIT, Non-Governmental Organization Manual,


We will begin to look at important issues concerning NGOs, especially international NGOs. Why do NGOs exist today? Do NGOs undermine the state? Why is it important that we consider these issues?

Firoze Manji and Carl O’Coill (2002): The Missionary Position: NGOs and Development in Africa
Author(s): Source: International Affairs, Royal Institute of International Affairs, Vol. 78, No. 3.

(1st internship journal of expectations to be handed in)

Week 5: Feb 15th 2011 - Your Agency & Donors in the Development Context


William Easterly, March 11, 2006 Saturday, Financial Post, National Edition, Workable plan to end poverty ... or UN babble?, Re: Letter, UN 'Fantasies' Won't Feed Poor, William Easterly, Feb. 25.

Alan Beattie, “The great unknown Aid? Trade? When it comes to prescriptions for relieving poverty in developing countries, rich donor nations should admit that they still don’t have all the answers,” Financial Times, July 8, 2006.

Week 6: Feb 22nd 2011 - Understanding Historical Context of Your Agency & Issue


Week 7: March 1st 2011 - Why Women’s Rights???? – Visiting Lecturer, Bernice Sam, National Programme Coordinator, WILDAF Ghana
Readings to be assigned
Week 8: March 7th 2011 Financing Development – Visiting lecturer, Rita Affram
A presentation on the various ways NGOs are funded, the different funding sources and types of funding and the accountability processes

Week 9: SPRING BREAK – MARCH 14th – 18th, 2011; NO CLASS

Week 10: March 22nd 2011 – Pan African perspective on NGOs and civil society

Readings:


Week 11: March 29th 2011 - What is Rights Based Approach? A presentation by visiting lecturer, Daphne Lariba, Executive Director, Legal Resource Centre
What should human rights have to do with development, NGOS or civil society?


Week 12: April 5th 2011 –Can Rights Based Approach Change Internal Organizational Structures and Approaches?

Readings: Reinventing Development? Translating Rights-Based Approaches From Theory into Practice, Chapter 1: A Human Rights Based Approach to Programming, 47-61; & The Experiences of Oxfam International and its affiliates in rights based programming and campaigning 63-78.

Week 13: April 12th 2011 –Social Accountability - Visiting lecturer – Mary Tobbin – Deputy Country Director, VSO
Readings: 2 handouts held in the library

Week 14: April 19th 2011 – READING WEEK – NO CLASS

Week 15: April 26th 2011 – Group work presentations

Week 16: May 3rd 2011 – May 6th 2011 Submission of 2nd Internship journal, evaluations and write ups of Group work presentations