Internship and Fieldwork Seminar

Class Code
INDIV-UG 9150 -001 / SCA-UA 9042-004

Instructor Details
Professor Lovisa Ericson
le21@nyu.edu

Class Details
Wednesday 3:30-5 pm
Location to be confirmed

Class Description
This course is designed as a seminar and combines weekly section meetings, together with community placement in organizations in Argentina. The community placement and volunteer experience together with the academic part is meant to serve the student's academic and professional development. The seminar provides multiple venues that accommodate different disciplinary interests of students while providing theoretical and methodological elements to critically examine these experiences. The goal is to acquire an understanding of Argentine society, of the organization in which students will conduct internships, and critically reflect on the experience.

The first part of the seminar will provide an interdisciplinary perspective on Argentine society and how it is constituted, and in the second the focus is on particular issues and agendas put forward by these organizations. To gain understanding of the third sector and civil society in Argentina. To learn some of the distinctive social, historical and political elements of Argentine society.

To understand and examine how civil society organization work with different thematic, causes, agendas and issues, and the impact they have in society, politics and economy. Improved understanding on how to reflect on a volunteer experience, and to draw connections between civil society and the internship experience.

The Assessment Components of the course consist of an Internship Journal and Interview, active participation in class with presentations of the reading. By the end of the semester, the students present a short oral and written examination.

Internship Journal and Interview (30%): The student writes a Journal during the semester with her/his expectations from the internship. The student will hand in the Journal to the instructor two times during the semester (4th week and end of Semester). Instructions on how to write the Journal will be given by the instructor. The student will do a short interview with one person involved in the organization. It can be the director, another volunteer or a beneficiary of the activities carried out by the organizations. Students will handle in a 2 pages
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summary of the interview.

**Active participation and presentations of reading in class (20%):** All students are expected to come to class prepared having done the week’s reading BEFORE class and ready to discuss and participate. The instructor will handle of specific questions for this purpose.

**Final oral and examination/presentation (20%):** All class participants will make a 10-15 minute presentation to the class on their internship and their final written exam the last day of class.

**Final written examination (30%):** The proposal will be related to your internship and to the questions which emerge from your experience and observations. The 5-pages paper will be due on the day the final exam is scheduled. Further instructions will be handed out by the start of the seminar.

**Assessment Expectations**

Grade A: The student makes excellent use of empirical and theoretical material and offers well structured arguments in his/her work. The student writes comprehensive essays / exam questions and his/her work shows strong evidence of critical thought and extensive reading.

Grade B: The candidate shows a good understanding of the problem and has demonstrated the ability to formulate and execute a coherent research strategy.

Grade C: Work is acceptable and shows a basic grasp of the research problem. However, the work fails to organize findings coherently and is in need of improvement.

Grade D: The work passes because some relevant points are made. However, there may be a problem of poor definition, lack of critical awareness, poor research.

Grade F: The work shows that the research problem is not understood; there is little or no critical awareness and the research is clearly negligible.

**Grade Conversion**

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**Exams and Submission of work**

Final Exam dates cannot be changed under any circumstance.

Mid term exam dates will be scheduled with each professor and it must be before the break.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from examination (with
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authorization, as above), your lecturer will decide how you will make-up the assessment component, if at all (by make-up examination, extra coursework, or an increased weighting on an alternate assessment component, etc.).

Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.

Final essays must be submitted to the professor in print and electronic copy. If the student is not in Buenos Aires, he/she must send a printed copy via express postal mail (i.e. FeDEX, DHL, UPS, etc) to the NYU Center in Buenos Aires – Anchorena 1314 - (C1425ELF) Argentina. This copy must arrive before or on the date of established deadline.

- NYU Buenos Aires has a strict policy about course attendance.
- Students should contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work but should NOT approach them for excused absences.
- Absences due to illness must be discussed with the Assistant Director for Academics Affairs, María Pirovano Peña within one week of your return to class.
- A doctor note excusing your absence is mandatory.
- The date on the doctor’s note must be the date of the missed class or exam.
- Absence requests for non-illness purposes must be discussed with the Assistant Director for Academics Affairs, María Pirovano Peña prior to the date(s) in question.
- If students have more than two unexcused absences they will be penalized by deducting 50% of the class participation grade. Please be aware that in most of the courses the class participation grade is 20% of the final grade. So the 50% of the class participation grade would mean 10% of the final grade.
- If students have more than four unexcused absences they will fail the course.
- Each class has a duration of one hour and half or two hours. Missing one class represents one absence. For those courses that meet once a week (three hours block), missing one class represents two absences.
- Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.
- NYU BA also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. Three late arrivals or earlier departures (10 minutes after the starting time or before the ending time) will be considered one absence.
- Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.
- Holidays’ make up classes are mandatory as regular scheduled classes. Late work should be submitted in person to the Assistant Director for...
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Submission of Work

Academics Affairs during office hours (Mon – Fri, 9.30 am to 5 pm), who will write on the essay or other work the date and time of submission, in the presence of the student. Another member of the administrative staff can accept the work, in person, in the absence of the Assistant Director for Academics Affairs and will write the date and time of submission on the work, as above.

Work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.

Written work submitted after 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

Plagiarism Policy

The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

All your written work must be submitted as a hard copy AND in electronic form to the instructor.

It is expected that the student follows the rules on academic honesty and intellectual integrity established by NYU University.

Auyero, Javier, 2000. The Hyper-Shantytown : Neo-Liberal Violence(s) in the Argentine Slum, Ethnography 2000 1: 93


Jantzi, Terrence (2008) Volunteerism and NGOs in Latin America: Elements that Enhanced Long-Term Volunteer Retention, Center for Social
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Development Research Report, No. 08-01, Washington University in St. Louis
www.eyv2011.eu/resources-library/item/download/58

Supplemental Texts(s)
Students are encouraged to read daily newspapers and look at how the media is covering the topics your organization is working with. The La Nación newspaper and Clarin have sections on volunteering and community work.
http://www.hacercomunidad.org/
Readings from English-speaking newspapers in Argentina are also recommended, Buenos Aires Herald and Argentina Independent.

Internet Research Guidelines

Additional Required Equipment

Week 1
Introduction, Expectations, Internship Placements
Introduction to Argentina and Buenos Aires social, cultural, economic and political contexts.
Information on internship placement, course requirements, internship Journal, interview and final exam.

Readings:

Auyero, Javier, 2000. The Hyper-Shantytown : Neo-Liberal Violence(s) in the Argentine Slum, Ethnography 2000 1: 93 (read the first ethnography)


Week 2
Working in Argentina and Intercultural Issues
The Argentine work place environment. Introduction to Argentina’s labor market, formal/informal economy, gender disparities, decent work and other issues concerning the sector.
What are the cultural differences that you might experience during your internship? How will it be to work in Spanish? What are the dress code and formalities, and how do I display emotions?

Readings:

Week 3

The Vibrant Civil Society and Third Sector in Argentina - historical and present perspectives

Readings:


http://www.ccss.jhu.edu/pdfs/Publications/argentin.pdf

Week 4

Engaging in NGOs/CSOs: Volunteers, activists, professionals

How do I engage in different causes defended by NGOs? Why is volunteering so important in Argentina?

Guest speaker: Rita Strauss from Fundación Huésped (to be confirmed)

Readings:

Jantzi, Terrence (2008) Volunteerism and NGOs in Latin America: Elements that Enhanced Long-Term Volunteer Retention, Center for Social Development Research Report, No. 08-01, Washington University in St. Louis 
www.eyv2011.eu/resources-library/item/download/58


Other resources:
http://www.voluntourism.org/

Assignments: Handing in Field Journal (1)

Week 5

Role and Function of NGOs/CSOs in Argentina

What role do NGOs/CSOs have? Do they compete with the State? How are they financed? What are the recent trends of transparency initiatives for CSOs in the region?

Guest Speaker: (to be confirmed)
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Case: Rendir Cuentas of Fundación SES

Readings:


Other resources:


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**Week 6**

Human Rights Organizations in Argentina

Historically: what roles did NGOs have in reporting Human Rights abuses in Argentina? What are the challenges today?

Case: CELS

Readings:


Publications from CELS (to be confirmed)

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**Week 7**

The Public Health situation in Argentina - Role for CSOs?

What’s the role of NGOs in combating the Chagas disease? What about the situation of HIV in Argentina today and what role can NGOs play in advocating for health issues? In class we do a brief overview of the health situation in Argentina.

Readings:

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and Family Planning (May, 2005), pp. 60-71

Video:
Documentary “Chagas, un mal Escondido” by Ricardo Preve (2005) (to be confirmed)

**Week 8**

**Historical and present perspectives on Argentina’s Education System**

Historical and present perspectives on Education in Argentina and Latin America? What’s the role for the Third Sector in offering service delivery and improving educational equality?

Videos:
Canal Encuentro, Escuelas Argentinas, Rural School in Molinos, Salta, Argentina: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5aqL2iElX6l](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5aqL2iElX6l)

Readings:
Gvirtz, Silvina, Beech, Jason and Oria, Angela, 2008. Schooling in Argentina, in: *Going to School in Latin America*, Greenwood Publishing Group

**Week 9**

**Environmental challenges and Sustainable Development in Argentina - Role of NGOs/CSOs**

Study visit: to be confirmed
Assisting at Green Drinks Buenos Aires event

Cases: Cartoneros, The Botnia Case and The Riachuelo Case: FARN, Asociación de Vecinos La Boca

Readings:


Assignment: Handing in interview with representative from NGO/CSO
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**Week 10**

**The Situation of Women’s Rights in Argentina**

Case: Fundación María de los Angeles

Readings:


**Week 11**

**Corporate Social Responsibility on the Rise - Cases from Argentina and Critical Perspectives**

What are the recent development and challenges for CSR in Argentina? What are the international and national regulatory measures and control mechanisms for CSR?


Readings:


**Week 12**

**Social and Solidarity Economy - the role of NGOs/CSOs**

What do we mean by Social and Solidarity Economy? Recent developments in CSR in Argentina and the role of NGOs and CSOs in this economy.
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Case: Fundación Pro Vivienda Social

Readings:


Week 13

NGOs, INGOs, and Transnational networks/ Latin American perspectives
Causes “without borders” and the role international organizations play in local NGO agenda-setting.

Readings:


Week 14

Presentations of final work, Course evaluations
Oral presentation in class, handing in written final exam, as well as Journal.