New York University in Buenos Aires
Internship Seminar and Fieldwork Course
Fall 2011

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Classroom and Course Schedule: Wednesday 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm.
Office Hours: by appointment

Description of the course

This course is designed as a small seminar and combines weekly section meetings, together with internships in organizations in Argentina. The academic part is meant to assist students in getting the most from their internship experience and provide theoretical and methodological elements to critically examine these experiences. It weaves together research design and methods with an empirical and theoretical examination of recent social phenomena in Argentina. The goal is to acquire an in-depth understanding of the organization in which students will conduct internships, as well as reflect on the experience. We will use selected themes and topics to explore theoretical perspectives and aspects of contemporary Argentine society. In parallel we will explore how to construct a research project, collect data and analyze its contents. In the first weeks we will work together to develop research topics, shape projects, discuss techniques for conducting fieldwork research. The second part will focus on the student’s individual work experience and research projects.

Course Objectives

• To learn ethnographic field methods and conduct fieldwork.
• To learn how to reflect on internship experience.
• To develop a research project based on the internship experience.

Requirements, Evaluation and Grading

**Written Assignments (30%)**
There will be four short written assignments exploring different topics and research methods. 1) Taking notes and observing I; 2) Taking notes and observing II; 3) conducting interviews; 4) Bibliography for research paper, research questions and preliminary content analysis. In addition, the students will do Journal writing during the course and the internship experience.

**Class Participation (20%)**
Class participation is fundamental to the success of this class. All students are expected to come to class prepared having done the week’s reading BEFORE class and ready to discuss and participate.

**Final paper (30%)**
There will be a 10 page paper (12 pt font, double spaced, 1 inch margins) due at the end of the class. The paper will be related to you internship and ideally should have an empirical
component, even if it is not the central piece of your paper. The paper will be due during the
day when the final exam is scheduled.

**Oral Presentation (20%)**
All class participants will make short 15 minute presentations to the class on the readings and
research question and findings.

**Attendance Policy**

- NYU Buenos Aires has a strict policy about course attendance. **No unexcused absences are permitted.**
- 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. **If students get sick on an exam day, they must let the Assistant Director
  for Academic Affairs know in advance about this, and they must see a doctor the same day in
  order to have their absence excused.**
- 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.
- The first unexcused absence will be penalized by deducting 1.5% from the student’s final course
  mark. After that each unexcused absence will be penalized by deducting 3% from the student’s
  final course mark.
- Students who have perfect attendance (100%) during the semester and have fulfilled all course
  requirements, i.e. class participation, meeting all deadlines, etc. will get extra points equivalent
to 2 % of the final grade.
- 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.
- Each class has a duration of one hour and half. Missing one class represents 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.

**Exams and Submission of Work**

- Final Exam dates cannot be changed under any circumstance.
- Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam.
- Late work should be submitted **in person** to the Assistant Director for 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.
• Please note end of semester essays must be submitted on time
• 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.

Plagiarism

I expect you to follow the rules on academic honesty and intellectual integrity established by NYU University. Presenting someone else’s work as your own is plagiarism. Essays must be entirely your own work. You will receive no credit for the assignment involved and in serious cases you will be referred to academic authorities for more severe forms of discipline.

PROGRAMME WITH SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1:  31/8  Introduction to Experiential Learning and to Argentina

Readings:
  URL: [http://conconflicts.ssrc.org/USA/salvatore/](http://conconflicts.ssrc.org/USA/salvatore/)

Week 2:  7/9  Introduction to Fieldwork and Qualitative Methods

Readings:

Assignment 1:
• First observation and note taking, due date 21/9.
• Begin Journal (throughout course)
Week 3: 14/9  Introduction to the Third Sector in Argentina and Guest Speaker Constanza Lafuente, Social Innovation Center, Universidad de San Andrés

Readings:

Week 4: 21/9  Organizing Field Notes & Observations  Due Date Assignment 1

Readings:

Assignment 2:
- Observation and note-taking at the internship organization, due date 5/10

Week 5: 28/9  Missions, Goals and Activities of Organizations

Readings:

Week 6: 5/10  Doing Interviews  Due date Assignment 2

Readings:

Assignment 3:
- Interview with a member of the internship organizations. Due date 26/10
Week 7: 19/10 Volunteering and Participation in the Third Sector

Readings:
  URL: [www.eyv2011.eu/resources-library/item/download/58](http://www.eyv2011.eu/resources-library/item/download/58)
  URL: [http://aof.revues.org/index2832.html](http://aof.revues.org/index2832.html)

*Due Date Assignment 3*

Week 8: 26/10 Mutual Aid Organization, Guest Speaker: Dr. Fernando Fischman, the Case of the Jewish Argentine Community

Readings:

*Due Date Assignment 3*

Week 9: 2/11 Identifying Research Questions and Bibliography for Final Report

Readings:

Assignment 4:
- Prepare research questions and preliminary bibliography for research paper and identify content. Due date 16/11

Week 10: 9/11 Analysis of Interviews and Research Questions

Readings:
Week 11: 16/11 National and Transnational Organizations

Readings:

Week 12: 23/11 1) Role(s) of Civil Society and 2) Structure of a Research Report

Readings:

Week 13: 30/11 Discussion of Data Collected, Findings, and Organization of Final Report

Readings:

Assignment 5:
- Preparing oral presentation for 7/12

Assignment 6:
- Final Report, due date 12/12

Week 14: 7/12 Student Presentations and Course Evaluation

The students will do 10-15 minutes oral individual presentations on their final report.