

## V36.0800, Environmental Studies Internship

Fall 2009

### *Meeting Times and Locations:*

9/17 - introductory meeting, 4:55-7:25pm (Waverly 433)

10/22 - small group midterm, 4:55-7:25pm (285 Mercer, 906)\*

10/29 - small group midterm, 4:55-7:25pm (285 Mercer, 906)\*

12/10 - final presentation, 4:55-7:25pm (Waverly 433)

\*=only attend one of these sessions

*Instructor:* Chris Schlottmann (cps236@nyu.edu)

*Description:* The Environmental Studies Internship (V36.0800), which is intended to be completed during the junior year, will prepare students for their professional lives by providing them with experience in environment-related organizations such as non-profits, research institutes and governmental organizations. At the beginning of the internship, students and the Internship Coordinator will agree to a learning contract that establishes specific goals as well as a schedule for achieving them. Interns will meet collectively during the semester to share their experiences and to present brief reports.

*Learning Contract:* The learning contract should include the following, totaling ~2 pages:

- Name, address, phone number, and email address for: you, the Environmental Studies Program Coordinator, and your internship site supervisor.
- Start and end date (totaling a minimum of 6 hours/week for one semester).
- Indicate that your internship is for academic credit at NYU as part of your major.
- The nature and detail of internship/tasks/skills (min. 1 paragraph).
- Intended learning goals, e.g. learning how a small scale non-profit works (min. 1 paragraph).
- How the internship relates to your course of study.

The learning contract is due before the start of your internship, and can develop over the course of the semester. Please have your site supervisor approve it.

*Journals:* You are required to write 1-page reflective journal entries twice per month. These will be handed in along with your final paper. Between all of the entries, please describe your professional and personal development. Include new knowledge, insights, values, interests, and aptitudes as well as communication, interpersonal, organizational and other skills. Include perceived strengths and weaknesses of your performance.

*Midterm Paper and Presentation:* The midterm paper is a 2-page reflection on what you have learned thus far (compared to your learning contract), what your goals for the second half of the semester are, and how the internship experience relates to your environmental studies coursework and education. Your presentation will cover all of these points, and should be a succinct 3-5 minutes long. Midterms are due on Thursday 10/29 by 1pm in my email inbox or at 285 Mercer Street, 901.

*Final Paper:* In 3-5 pages, please reflect on your semester's internship and your success in reaching the learning goals spelled out in the learning contract. Please include: (1) a detailed description of the skills and insights you have acquired; (2) the most helpful/useful part of the internship; (3) areas for improvement (personally; at the site; as it relates to your academic course of study); and, (4) how the internship has/hasn't informed your post-graduation plans and vision. The goal is more than just telling us what you did, but also reflecting on how you've learned from your site (including any insight on your own learning style and strengths), what you have learned about how environmental projects are undertaken (and how environmental groups operate), and how you see this experience relating to your classroom-based understanding of environmental studies. Please structure the paper according to this numbering. Finals are due on Friday 12/11 by 1pm in my email inbox or at 285 Mercer Street, 901.

*Final Presentation:* In 5 minutes, please present the following: (1) your learning successes and areas for improvement this semester, (2) questions your internship has raised for your ES (and undergraduate) education (including the direction you hope to take after graduation), and (3) any insights about how environmental groups operate, succeed (or not), and their place in resolving environmental problems. Also, as student ambassadors to the environmental community in NYC, we would like to know (1) how valuable your experience was to your undergraduate education, (2) what we can do to improve the internship experience for you, and (3) what the strengths and weaknesses of the site were (i.e., what kind of students should we send there in the future?). And, as always, please feel free to send me any feedback at all on your internship experience - anything from reflections, sharing an interesting or awful experience or project, thoughts on your site-specific experience, and any advice you have for us on improving the internship experience. Presentations will take place on Thursday 12/10 from 4:55-7:25pm in Waverly 433.

*Methods of Evaluation:* The Program Coordinator will check on the intern mid-semester and by calling the intern supervisor to discuss the internship. Also, the intern will complete a final project about the internship. Interns will be assessed by the ES Program Coordinator, ES Program Director, and the internship site supervisor, and through the completion of a midterm and final paper and presentation.

*Grading:* Grading is based on your progress towards your goals as spelled out in the learning contract. This will be determined by feedback from your site supervisor, your mid-term and final papers, your reflective journals, and final presentation. Please note

that a grade of "A" is for exceptional work that not only meets but exceeds the expectations of your supervisors.