Course Description: This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to apply the practical, theoretical, and research-based coursework that they have already completed to a field experience. It will offer students an opportunity to reflect on how the knowledge and understanding that they have obtained so far may be utilized in a professional setting, and it will also offer students an opportunity to hone their skills as professionals within the field of education policy. Further, it will provide students with an opportunity for in-depth engagement with matters of education policy as relates to their internship placement. Given these intended outcomes, students are expected to choose an internship that will engage their interests, challenge their understanding, and expand their horizons.

Course Objectives: Students will create a focused, integrative experience within the field of cultural and educational policy studies through which they will acquire new knowledge around national and/or international education issues, the stakeholders involved, and how they meet the educational needs of children, youth, and adults. In addition, students will gain new administrative skills, integrate their classroom learning into their field experience, and develop their critical thinking skills through reading, writing, spoken observation, and ongoing formal and informal feedback. Students will also support one another in their learning.

School of Education Conceptual Framework: In keeping with the School of Education’s Conceptual Framework Standards of Social Action through Education, ELPS 265 is designed to provide students with an opportunity to actively engage within the greater community, applying their knowledge and understanding of cultural and educational policy studies to critically evaluate and reflect upon aspects of their placement experience. Further, the internship enhances students’ ability - in keeping with the SOE’s commitment to culturally responsive action - to engage in socially just and ethical practices within myriad and diverse communities. For further information, please see the CEPS CFS map and rubric in the “Resources” section of this course’s Sakai page.

- CFS4: Candidates engage with local and/or global communities in ethical and socially just practices.

Dispositions: All courses in the SOE assess student dispositions on Professionalism, Inquiry, and Social Justice. Full transparency is critical to ensure that students are able to meet the expectations in this area. You can find the rubric for these dispositions on LiveText, and also on Sakai under the course title ELPS 265, the “Resources” tab, folder: “CEPS Resources.”

Smart Evaluation: Please see the syllabus addendum for more information on the course evaluation process for students.
The Internship

Each student will be responsible for finding their own placement, resources for which are available to aid the student in this search via the course instructor and Loyola’s Center for Experiential Learning. When searching for a placement, students may consider, among others, the following locations: museums, non-profit organizations, NGOs, school-based after school programs, school day programs, departments and organizations within the LUC community, community centers, education policy institutes, religious groups, government offices, and other organizations not delineated here. The work at any one of these given sites should focus within the following areas: educational programming, international development, humanitarian aid, fundraising, grant writing, policy formation, program development, program evaluation, and advocacy. The site location must be approved by the course instructor. In presenting a proposed internship site to the instructor, students are expected to make a careful and thoughtful case as to how a proposed field-based learning experience will contribute to the learning objectives of the course and the student’s own individual learning objectives. Students are expected to spend between 120 and 150 hours at their internship site for its duration. In addition, students participating in ELPS 265 will be expected to meet with the instructor and other students in the course regularly throughout the semester, and to also complete written assignments and assigned readings. Please see the internship contract posted on Sakai for more information on student, site supervisor, and course instructor responsibilities to the internship.

Course Requirements

Ongoing - Internship Participation: Participation and engagement throughout are essential to your success within this course, including: the time that you will spend at your placement, coordination of site visits, completion of your internship contract, completion of your time sheet, your attendance at and participation in our regular class meetings, and, as we do not meet weekly, maintaining a timely response to any intervening email communication relating to this course. Participation during class time entails arriving on-time, completing any readings, being prepared to share-out on your internship experience thus far, as well as your related coursework, and also engaging in discussion and supporting other members of the class in their internship experience. Further, in addition to my assessment of your participation, included in this category will be the assessment of your participation and professionalism at your internship by your site supervisor.

Ongoing - The Reflective Journal: You will be asked to keep a weekly journal throughout the length of your internship. This is a space for you to record and to reflect on the events of your day-to-day activities at your placement - including challenges and successes, the exciting and mundane, and insights and questions, as they come to you. In addition, the journal is intended to be a space for you to make connections between the work that you are doing and also education policy areas that are of interest to you. Further, the journal will serve as a resource for you to return to at the end of the semester when you give your final presentation and review of your progress. Each entry is assessed for completion and should be 400-500 words. A progress grade will be provided at the mid-term and again at the end of the semester.
**Ongoing – Readings:** I will periodically assign readings in preparation for class and for assignments. These will not be incredibly lengthy but rather are designed to help build understanding around how organizations function. We will discuss them in class, but then you will also need to demonstrate evidence of your reflection on these readings by synthesizing them into your various written assignments, including your journal and papers.

**Ongoing - Policy Articles/Review of Literature:** In order to better support your learning at your placement and to further enrich its connection with education policy, you will be asked to collect a minimum of six recent articles/studies written on the policy area in which you are working and to conduct a short review of the debate within this field and its prospects moving forward. These articles should be pulled from academic journals and the like, found by searching Loyola’s library database. Your final assessment of the debate will be due at the end of the semester and will be assessed as a part of your final presentation for this course. In the interim, in order that you may reflect as you are working at your internship, I am going to ask that you share one article at each of our class meetings. You do not need to write anything (though you may wish to so that you have the material ready for you to access at the end of the semester). Rather, sharing an article will entail giving a summary of its argument and then offering any connections between what you have read and your experience at your placement to that point. In addition, ahead of this meeting you will need to post your article to Sakai so that others can review it before class. During class, we will take time for discussion and give an opportunity for others to ask questions of your research. This part – sharing-out – will be assessed as part of your participation grade for this course.

**Setting Goals for Your Internship (800-1200 words):** At the start of your placement, you will be asked to write a short essay reflecting on what you hope to gain from your internship. Your reflection should include consideration for both the professional growth and increased academic understanding within education policy that you hope to attain. For this assignment, you will be asked to identify three specific goals that you will periodically check-in on throughout and then return to at the close of the semester. Greater detail concerning this assignment and its assessment may be found on Sakai.

**Mid-Term - Work-Place Culture Assignment (1200-1500 words):** Around the mid-point of the semester, you will be asked to write an essay reflecting on the work-place culture of the place where you have been interning. The aim of this assignment is to give you an opportunity to reflect on the importance of environment in shaping the workplace experience. In addition, it will provide you with an opportunity to think about what characteristics you would like to have included at any company, organization, school, museum, etc., where you might one day hope to work. Further, this essay is an opportunity for you to check-in on the progress that you are making toward the goals that you will have set at the beginning of the semester and to consider in general how your internship is progressing. I will post a lengthier explanation to Sakai two weeks prior to the mid-term.
Five Jobs Assignment (200-250 words/summary): For this assignment you will be asked to do a bit of research, collecting information on five different jobs that you might pursue based on the skills and knowledge that you have gained from your placement and your coursework. In the field of education, we tend to think of schools first when we consider workplaces. However, there are numerous places where one might find themselves when it comes to having a background in education policy. These include but are not limited to: central education offices, non-profit organizations, philanthropic foundations, museums, and government agencies. As such, I will encourage you to think creatively when it comes time to complete this assignment. For its final form, you are to have collected five summaries that convey the responsibilities of each job and how it fits with both your interests and qualifications. More detail regarding this assignment will be made available on Sakai.

Final Presentation: For your final assignment in this course you will be asked to give a presentation reflecting on your overall experience at your internship, as well as what you have learned about education policy over the course of the semester. Your presentations should consist of two parts. The first part will focus on an assessment of the goals that you have set for yourself, while the second part will consist of the literature review of your chosen policy. With this said, both may be informed by what you have collected in your journal, your experience at your placement, our class meetings and readings, and then also the policy articles that you shared with the class and have collected for your literature review of your chosen policy. Further detail about this assignment will be posted to Sakai.

Assignment Due Dates:

- Sunday, February 14th - Goal-Setting Essay
- Sunday, March 14th - Work-Place Culture Essay
- Sunday, April 4th - Five Jobs Assignment
- April 18th - Reflective Journal; Timesheet
- Week of April 26 – Final Presentations

**All written assignments should be submitted in Times New Roman, 12pt. font, with 1-inch margins, and include an original title that reflects the paper’s content, as well as your name, the class, my name, and date. All assignments are due by 10:00 p.m. on their due date.**

Evaluation of Assignments:

- Internship/Class Participation ....................... 30 pts
- Reflective Journal ..................................... 20 pts
- Goal-Setting Essay ................................. 5 pts
- Mid-Term - Work-Place Culture Essay .... 15 pts
- Five Jobs Assignment ............................... 5 pts
- Final Presentation ................................. 25 pts

Total: 100 pts
Grading Distribution:

A:  100-93%  
A-:  92-90%  
B+:  89-87%  
B:   86-83%  
B-:  82-80%  
C+:  79-77%  
C:   76-73%  
C-:  72-70%  
D:  69-60%  
F:  59% and below

Additional Information:

Absences: If you know that you will be absent for one of our meetings, please do your best to let me know well in advance. You will be responsible for re-scheduling this missed class to meet with me at another time. If you know that you will be absent from your internship placement, please be in contact with your supervisor there as soon as possible and make sure that you confirm that your notice of your absence has been received. You will be responsible for making-up the time. Communication with me: I will do my best to respond to your emails within 24-hours during the week and a bit less frequently during the weekend. If your email is time-sensitive, please indicate this in the subject-line.