

ENVS 395 Academic Internship
Loyola University Chicago
Vietnam Center
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course has several important objectives. The most important one is to help students make the most of their experience as environmental interns and research assistants in the various projects and sites to which they have been assigned. The facilitator/instructor will help guide students in observing cultural differences and practices in the Vietnamese workplace, when compared to the American workplace, and also help sharpen awareness and interpersonal skills for working in a multi-cultural environment.

Specific activities, some online, will be devoted to investigate topics such as the differences between the environmental problems, challenges and solutions in the U.S. and in Vietnam, the current political and economic tools, the national legal frameworks, the institutional arrangement and research activities, the impacts of climate change in Mekong Delta, Vietnam and neigourhood countries, global environmental issues and cooperation, transboundary pollutants, etc.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Students will acquire a basic knowledge of the problems, challenges and opportunities facing the environment in Vietnam
- Students will contribute to helping solve the environmental problems in Vietnam, especially in HoChiMinh City and the Mekong Delta. They will also learn how to organize their own tasks and try to achieve their targets. Students will develop their knowledge via participating on problem –solving process during internship program.
- Students will develop skills in observation, discussion, reflection and team working
- Student will be able to articulate and apply principles learned through observation, in and outside of the classroom, and increase their global working experiences.
- Students will be able to recognize and analyze cultural differences between the US and Vietnam
- Students will develop their professional skills within a real-life work environment.

The academic assignments are specifically designed with the intent to enrich the learning experience throughout the internship. Completion of assignments will encourage in-depth reflection of the internship experience, and help the student gain self-understanding, self-confidence, and interpersonal skills.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Novotny, N. (2008), Sustainable Urban Water Management, Conference Paper 15-19 September 2008, Leuven, Belgium, published in Water and Urban development Paradigm J. Feyen, et al., ed. CRC Press/Balkema, Leiden, The Netherlands, DOI: 10.1201/9780203884102.pt1.

Charles, H., Godfray, J. (2010), Food Security: The Challenge of Feeding 9 Billion People, Science 327, 812, DOI: 10.1126/science.1185383.

MEANS OF ASSESSMENT

The final grade will be determined on the basis of the following criteria, and grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

Journal Blog (8 entries)	16%
Class participation and discussion	15%
Reflection papers (2)	14%
Final Paper (1)	15%
Engaged Learning requirements	10%
On site attendance/Host evaluation	30%

C- (© minus) will be the minimum acceptable grade for university undergraduate requirements, such as the University Core Curriculum and the Values Across the Curriculum requirements.

JOURNAL BLOG: Students will use their internship experiences, cultural experiences, and interactions with Vietnamese colleagues and friends, course readings and lectures to write constructive and analytical observations in their assigned online journal blogs on Sakai.

The reflective blog entries are the primary place for demonstrating meaningful reflection as student address the Learning Objectives; resolve problems and challenges, and document observations and feelings relating to the internship.

As students will be doing a 15-week internship, but due to travels, only 12 weeks will be available for student work at their internship site, and therefore 8 entries will be required.

Failing to submit an entry will constitute a penalization of 2% of the overall grade.

CLASS DISCUSSION/PARTICIPATION. The class will meet seven times throughout the semester, on Wednesday for 90-120 minutes, 2:00 PM – 4:30 PM. The extra half-hour is intended to cover times when the class may take trips outside of the classroom. The meeting place will be at the room A213 – Open University 97 Vo Van Tan, HCM City or at a nearby coffee shop where we can secure a private room. Please note the dates in the schedule below. In-class discussions provide an opportunity for fellow interns to collaboratively reflect on and explore in depth various topics relating to the professional work environment; learn about each other’s internship sites and work-related projects; provide an opportunity for interns to synthesize and connect various theories and concepts to their experiences (i.e. effective communication, leadership, ethics in business, etc).

FINAL PAPER. Interns are required to submit a 6-page **final paper** describing their experience which will constitute 15% of the final grade (additional guidelines will be forthcoming).

Failure to submit the Final Paper in time will constitute a penalizing issue (minus 2% on the final grade calculation).

ENGAGED LEARNING REQUIREMENTS: students will express what they intend to achieve throughout the internship and how it will be accomplished. These learning objectives have to effectively relate academic learning to the internship experience. They will have to abide by the writing guidelines given for Learning Objectives & timely completion. The Learning Objectives have to be upload into LOCUS.

Please notice that completing the Engaged Learning University requirements will constitute 5% of your grade

Reflection Paper, 2 in total, at least one page each has to be submitted after receiving paper in 3 weeks.

ON-SITE ATTENDANCE together with the performance **evaluation** by the site supervisor at the end of the semester

will constitute 30% of the final grade.

NB: If a student is fired or let go from their internship, their grade will be lowered at the instructor's discretion.

SPECIFIC GUIDELINES ON EACH ASSIGNMENT WILL BE ON SAKAI

(Resources/assignments guidelines folder, with a grading rubric description).

ATTENDANCE POLICY

For the internship, the only absences allowed are those that are medically excused by a doctor’s note. Remember that you will have to turn in your Presence sheet at the end of the semester along with your host evaluation.

Attendance at all class meetings and site visit is mandatory. For the purpose of grade calculation, each unexcused absence that a student accumulates will reduce her or his final grade by 2%.

CLASS ETIQUETTE

Students studying abroad are ambassadors for the Loyola University of Chicago and as such, should act with decorum and respect for others at all times. Food and drink may NOT be brought into the classroom or consumed during class. Cell phones and other electronic devices should be switched off upon entering the classroom or lecture room.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

Plagiarism or any form of academically dishonest behavior will result minimally in the instructor assigning the grade of “F” for the assignment. In addition, all instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Rome Center’s Associate Director for Academic Affairs, who may constitute a hearing board to consider the imposition of additional sanctions, including a recommendation of expulsion, depending on the seriousness of the misconduct. Familiarity by all students with Loyola University Chicago’s Undergraduate Studies Catalogue section on Academic Integrity <http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/>, will be assumed by the instructors.

CALENDAR OF INTERNSHIP COURSE

First week of classes: all internships begin. (Exceptions will be made only in case of documented illness)

Last week of classes: all internships end.

Mandatory class meetings will be held for 120 minutes, and specific dates are here indicated.

Week/Date	General	
Orientation 22 Aug – 24 Aug		
One 26 Aug – 1 Sep	Class meeting 1: 28 Aug, 2:00 – 4:00 PM Internship Field Experience	Nguyen Thi Van Ha (NTVH) Meeting with all supervisors Introduce on Padlet.com Journal entry: Novotny, N. (2008) Sustainable Urban Water Management
Two 2 Sep - 08 Sep	Class meeting 2, Sep 4, 2:00 – 4:00 PM Internship Field Experience – Reflection - QA	Speaker: Nguyen Thi Van Ha “Impacts of climate change and water quality in Vietnam and in HoChiMinh City”
Three 9 Sep - 15 Sep	Intership program	
Four	Class meeting 3, Sep 18, 2:00 – 4:00 PM	Guess Speaker 1: MS. Nguyen Ngoc Thanh-

15 Sep - 21 Sep	<i>Internship Field Experience – Reflection - QA</i>	HCMC environmental environmental protection agency- Environmental management in HCMC Due reflection on paper 1.
Five 22 Sep - 28 Sep	Mekong Delta excursion 27 - 28 Sep	
Six 29 Sep - 06 Oct	<i>Intership program</i>	
Seven 07 Oct – 13 Oct	Out-door class meeting 4, Oct 09, 1:00 – 4:30 PM at NHC company <i>Internship Field Experience – Reflection - QA</i>	Guess Speaker 2: Mr. Binh from NHC Experience of enterpreneurship of environmental non-profit NGOs on waste management and solutions (visit NHC office by van) Journal 2: Charles, H. (2010) Food Security: The Challenge of Feeding 9 Billion People Reflection on Mekong trip
Eight 14 Oct – 20 Oct	<i>Intership program</i>	
Nine 21 Oct – 27 Oct	North-Central excursion 18 -24 Oct	
Ten 28 Oct – 3 Nov	Out-door class meeting 5, Oct 30, 1:00 – 4:30 PM <i>Internship Field Experience – Reflection - QA</i>	Guess Speaker 3: Mr Tấn – PMU Smart transportation Visit Thu Thiem Bridge –Tunnel; Visit Nhieu Loc Thi Nghe canal project and the zoo in HCMC Coffee and share reflection on North-Central excursion Due reflection on paper 2
Eleven 04 Nov – 10 Nov	<i>Intership program</i>	
Twelve 11 Nov – 17 Nov	<i>Class meeting 6, Nov 13, 2:00 – 4:00 PM</i> <i>Internship Field Experience– Reflection - QA</i> Cambodia excursion 14 -17 Nov	Guess Speaker 4: Mrs. Tâm Manage the railway operation in HCMC Due reflection on paper 2
Thirteen 18 Nov – 24 Nov	<i>Intership program</i>	
Fourteen 25 Nov – 31 Nov	<i>Class meeting 7: Nov 27, 2:00 – 4:00 PM</i> <i>Internship Field Experience– Reflection - QA</i>	Reflection on “Internship program”. What makes you different? What are difference? Reflection on Cambodia trip
Fifteen 1 Dec – 7 Dec	Final week of program	Final paper due