

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: Middle East Studies & Internship in Jordan
Course Title: Issues in the Jordanian Workplace (Summer)
Course Code: AR397
Total Hours: 12
Recommended Credits: 2
Suggested Cross Listings: Middle East Studies, Culture Studies
Language of Instruction: English and Arabic
Prerequisites/Requirements: Required for all students enrolled in an internship

Description

This course gives students an immersive experience in work environments of the Middle East and North Africa in a number of interesting fields of economic, social, political, and cultural importance as well as offering students an academic context for their internship experience. An appropriate internship placement will be worked out in advance taking into account the student's background, major, Arabic language level, and career goals. Students build on the experiences they gain from their internship by learning about goal setting, work strategies, and how to deal with cross-cultural issues in the workplace. Students learn to overcome workplace difficulties and challenges in a different culture, compare and contrast between previous work experience, and exchange opinions and suggestions with fellow coworkers.

Classes include brief lectures on course themes, discussion of readings, class trips, problem-solving activities, and student reflection log entry analysis and discussion. Several times throughout the semester the class may feature a guest speaker to present a specified topic pertaining to Jordanian culture or management, work strategies, or how to start a career in Jordan.

Students engage in internships for at least 8 hours per week every week of the term. The average internship workload is closer to 13 hours per week. Students also attend "Issues in the Jordanian Workplace" for 2 hours per week. The above-noted recommended credits are for the combination of these two components.

Objectives

Students of this course:

- Understand the environment and structure of workplaces in Jordan including dress, work relationships, roles, administrative structure, and management style.
- Exchange views and ideas with workers from different backgrounds and cultures.
- Develop a working vocabulary of business terminology in English and Arabic.
- Through their exchange, students will meet the host company's needs and assist them in business affairs as determined by their on-site manager.
- Learn time management, task prioritization, networking, and problem solving skills.
- Plan and implement internship work strategies formulated in class discussions.

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- Reflect on the international internship experience and discuss the challenges specific to Jordan-based internships as well as their own individual internships.

Course Requirements

Students must attend all classes and are expected to actively participate in class discussions by referring to their own experiences and engaging the readings. This class meets once a week for one hour at each class. Students are also expected to have completed their assigned hours at their internship placement for at least 8 hours a week. If course readings were assigned prior to class, students should have completed all reading prior to the beginning of class.

Students submit detailed work logs at the end of the every week that include descriptions of the days and hours worked and tasks completed. Additionally, students write a weekly reflection on their experience as an intern and report from the workplace on lessons learned, challenges or problems overcome, patterns of behavior observed, and the impact of any larger cultural theme touched on in class. The instructor uses log entries as a general basis for discussion topics in class.

Students submit a 1500-5000-word final paper at the end of the course; the instructor gives a specific page limit. Students are asked to describe their observations and comments on their internship experience in this paper. Students discuss challenges they faced, how they overcame them, interesting cultural differences and anecdotes, and their personal development. Students present their findings to their teacher and their manager at their internship placement jointly and respond to any comments and questions they have. The paper is graded on its clarity, quality of analysis, organization, and writing.

Methods of Evaluation

The final grade shall be determined as follows:

- Internship Participation 30%
- Class Activities 20%
- Work Logs 20%
- Final Paper and Presentation 15%
- Participation 15%

Primary Texts

Articles on the work environment and culture in the Middle East with a focus on Jordan.

Articles on different types of work settings: private, public, NGO, etc.

Articles on Jordanian society and culture.

Supplementary Texts

Articles on the specific area in which the student works.

Diplomacy, Politics, Business Administration, Social interest, Humanitarian interest.

Outline of Course Content

Week 1, 2, 3:

- Classroom focus on the society, history, and culture of Jordan in general.

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- Activities outside the classroom assigned by the teacher in the framework and in consideration of these readings and discussions.

Readings:

- Richard T. Antoun (2000). Civil Society, Tribal Process, and Change in Jordan: An Anthropological View.
- Linda L. Layne (1989). The Dialogics of Tribal Self-Representation in Jordan.
- Musa Budeiri (1996). Poor Kid on the Bloc: The Importance of Being Jordan.

Week 4, 5:

- Classroom focus on theoretical studies of work environments in North Africa and Jordan.
- Activities outside the classroom assigned by the teacher in the framework and in consideration of these readings and discussions.

Readings:

- Stephen Tropiano (1997). The Internship Experience: A Practical Guide.
- Peter F. Parilla and Garry W. Hesser (1998). Internships and the Sociological Perspective: Applying Principles of Experiential Learning.
- Patricia R. Paulsell (1991). A Cultural Rationale for International Business Internships.
- Daniel C. Feldman, William R. Folks, and William H. Turnley (1999). Mentor-Protégé Diversity and Its Impact on International Internship Experience.

Week 6:

- Classroom focus on workplace problems in Jordan.
- Activities outside the classroom assigned by the teacher in the framework and in consideration of these readings and discussions.

Readings:

- Onn Winckler (2002). The Demographic Dilemma of the Arab World: The Employment Aspect.
- Markus Loewe, Jonas Blume, and Johanna Speer (2008). How Favoritism Affects the Business Climate: Empirical Evidence from Jordan.
- Dove Izraeli (1997). Business Ethics in the Middle East.

Week 7:

- Classroom focus on the changing course of the Jordanian society in the framework of the recent revolution and shifting dynamics of Jordanian politics.
- Activities outside the classroom assigned by the teacher in the framework and in consideration of these readings and discussions.

Readings:

- Stephane Nanes (2007). Jordan's Unwanted "Guests".
- Yitzhak Reiter (2004). The Palestinian-Transjordanian Rift: Economic Might and Political Power in Jordan

Week 8:

- Preparation of final research papers and presentation.

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