Independent Study Syllabus

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Description:

This optional course is specially designed for Rehearsing Change students who wish to complete an internship practicum, independent research project or independent creative project for three academic credits. The independent study can focus on almost any area in the social sciences, education, humanities and arts, including projects in the Applied Arts. In most cases, but not all, the evaluator of the student's work is one of the two Pachaysana academic coordinators. In other cases, the class is taken in coordination with the student's home university, and a faculty member from the home university serves as the adviser and evaluator. In cases where there is no home school advisor-evaluator, and neither of the coordinators are qualified to evaluate the proposed project, a different Rehearsing Change faculty member can serve as advisor/evaluator. The coordinators are qualified to evaluate in the areas of Sociology, Political Science, Education, Development Studies, Gender Studies, Ethnic Studies, Cultural Studies, Peace and Conflict Studies, Spanish, Social Innovation, Humanities, and the Fine & Performing Arts, as well as several other areas. The internship and/or research project includes completing contact hours with the hosting organization (or documenting time spent in a research log), regular meetings with the adviser/evaluator and maintaining a reflective journal, which includes a final analytical component. The creative project uses a similar approach, however the final product can be a one of many options including but not limited to a collection of poetry, an extended monologue, a written short play, a choreographed dance, a series of visual artwork, etc.

INTERNSHIP CONTACT HOURS: 35 to 40 contact hours per 1 Pachaysana credit hour

INTERNSHIP Course Objectives:

- Acquire specific practical skills working in an Ecuadorian non-profit organization. Identification and evaluation of social problems, creative problem solving, etc.
- Clarify personal and/or career goals; gain an understanding of personal strengths and weaknesses
- Integrate experiential learning in the internship with academic / theoretical learning.
- Identify existing academic knowledge and apply such knowledge to practical work experience at an Ecuadorian institution
- Broaden world vision and identify how such a vision relates to the multi-cultural context of interning in Ecuador.

INDEPENDENT STUDY (Research or Creative Project) Course Objectives:

- Identify appropriate and achievable learning objectives that relate to the examination/exploration of existing social, environmental or cultural conflicts in Ecuador.
- Clarify personal and/or academic/creative goals; develop a clearer understanding of personal strengths and weaknesses with relationship to these goals
- Develop skills in self-evaluation,
- Broaden world vision and identify how such a vision relates to the multi-cultural context of researching/creating in Ecuador.

Evaluation:

Students are graded with the same grading scale (A to F) as other Pachaysana courses.

If the evaluation of the Independent Study or Internship is conducted at the home university, the Pachaysana coordinator is responsible for clearly communicating any failures to comply with the necessary contact hours or conduct research in an appropriate manner. The home school evaluator will send his/her final grade to the Pachaysana coordinator by a pre-determined established date.

If Pachaysana conducts the evaluation, the student must demonstrate the following:

- In the case of an Independent Study, each student must complete a personalized syllabus that clearly states personal learning objectives, activities to be carried out, a list of readings (including recommended readings issued by the Pachaysana coordinator and self-directed readings), and an expected final product (research paper, portfolio, etc.).
- In the case of an Internship, completion of the necessary contact hours (with a letter, email or completed form from the Host Organization – taking into consideration the policy of the given organization)
- In both cases, attendance of no less than 3 scheduled meetings/advising sessions with the Pachaysana Coordinator and satisfactory completion of the reflective-analytical component (journal, blog, paper, etc.)

Internship Placement:

Pachaysana maintains relationships with dozens of organizational contacts where students can carry out their experience. It is the student's responsibility to select the organization, conduct a visit and establish and agreed-upon work schedule with a contact person/supervisor at the given organization. The Pachaysana Coordinator or their assistant may assist with the placement and reserves the right to conduct visits throughout the semester. At least one visit is conducted every semester.

Regarding the Reflective-Analytical Component:

Although every placement is different, the advisor-evaluator will suggest entries and possible broad topics that you might address in your reflective-analytical component. The journal-blog must be turned in either periodically or at the completion of your internship

Along with the reflective component, we strongly recommend the collection of any documents from your internships experience that may be helpful processing your experience. This may include, besides your own observation and field notes, interviews with others who work at the site, organizational documents such as organizational charts, brochures, policy manuals, committee minutes, etc. - anything that is public information. You should not collect confidential information, files, or material that is not publicly available. You should get permission from your supervisor before collecting these documents.

Regarding Academic Credit at Home institutions:

It is the **student's responsibility**, and only the student's responsibility, to communicate with his/her home university with regards to independent study evaluation and the **transferring of academic credit**.