

AMST 495
Internship in American Studies

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Catalogue Description

The internship class offers a learning experience for undergraduate majors or minors at any public or private institution to which an American Studies major is related.

Course Objectives

An Internship in American Studies allows students to explore a potential career field and gain hands-on experience outside of the classroom. The internship is designed to enrich and complement students' coursework and allow them to apply what they have learned in their American Studies classes. Internships may take place on or off campus; they may occur in museums, libraries, service organizations, local government, or in nonprofit or corporate settings. Regardless of the type of internship chosen, the experience should strengthen students' resumes and professional applications while also enhancing their understanding of some aspect of American culture.

Internships must be approved by a supervising faculty member, in this case, an American Studies professor or the Department's Internship Coordinator, and arranged through the Center for Internships and Community Engagement (CICE). While the nature and responsibilities of the internship will vary according to the site of the internship, each student must spend at least 120 hours of work related to the internship site's operations over the course of the semester. Students are also required to write an essay of reflection at the conclusion of their internship or complete a commensurate alternate assignment approved by the supervising faculty member, such as a documentary film or website.

Student-Centered Learning Goals

- Gain experience in American Studies related institutions on or off campus.
- Create opportunities for students to explore and build connections with potential employers.
- Give students hands-on experience in possible career fields.

- Prepare students for challenging careers.
- Have students reflect on the relationship between their academic learning and their internship in an essay or alternate assignment.

Department Learning Goals

- Create linkages between American Studies students and campus organizations, community organizations, private industry, and cultural institutions.
- Strengthen relationships with the southern California community through student liaisons with internship providers.

Texts

There are no texts for this class.

Requirements

Because internships are arranged individually, there is no common syllabus. Instead, students must complete the following requirements and consult the Course Schedule below for due dates and deadlines.

- Make an appointment to discuss your plans for an internship with your supervising faculty -- an American Studies professor or the Department's Internship Coordinator -- well in advance of the semester in which you plan to undertake your internship.
- In preparation, think about what kind of place you'd like to work: museum? a nonprofit? a community service organization? On campus or off campus?
- Visit the Center for Internships and Community Engagement (CICE) and, using their database, identify an internship opportunity. You may also develop internship contacts on your own and have them registered as a provider through the CICE. www.fullerton.edu/cice
- Confirm your plans with your supervising faculty and register for AMST 495.
- Attend an organizational meeting with your supervising the first week of the semester.
- Complete CICE registration and return this to your supervising faculty.
- Plan a work schedule, remembering that you need to log at least 120 hours by the

end of the semester.

- You must meet with your supervising faculty at least four times over per semester except when, in the opinion of the supervising faculty member, the distance between the site of the internship and CSUF makes meeting impractical. In these cases, these cases the faculty should confer with the student by telephone, email, or other electronic means on a regular basis.
- After completing their internship, they must write a reflective essay (3-5 pages) and submit it to the supervising faculty or complete an alternate commensurate assignment by the end of finals week for the semester. The essay should describe their work experience and reflect on its relationship to the concepts and knowledge learned in their American Studies classes.

Grading Policy and Criteria

This internship course is graded credit or no credit. Your site supervisor's evaluations and your reflective essay will be the basis for the grade you receive. To get credit for the course, you students must 1) successfully complete the required hours (to be confirmed by your site supervisor); and 2) receive a grade of "C" or higher, on our reflective essay.

Rights & Resources

The following links provide important information to you, as a student, concerning your rights and responsibilities, as well as emergency preparedness. Please review these carefully.

[University Policy on Academic Dishonesty](#)

[Disabled Student Services](#)

[Emergency Policies](#)

495 Course Schedule

Date	Required Activity To be Completed By This Date
By the End of Week 2	Attend Organizational Meeting with Supervising Faculty Register for AMST 495 Complete CICE Registration Confirm Schedule with Internship Site Supervisor
By the End of Week 5	Early-Semester Meeting With Supervising Faculty
By the End of Week 9	Mid-Semester Meeting With Supervising Faculty
By the End of Week 15	Complete 120 Internship Hours End-of-Semester Meeting With Supervising Faculty
By the End of Week 16	Submit Reflective Essay