HUMANITIES 490
Humanities Internship

Italy Center Internship Director: Alia K. Nardini
Email: anardini@shc.edu

Course Description:
The Spring Hill Italy Center Humanities Internship provides students with a unique opportunity to think more deeply about complex issues facing Italy, the broader Mediterranean area, and the world. Our primary focus is to allow participants to better understand the lives of others, especially the impoverished and those living on the margins of society in Bologna.

The Spring Hill Italy Center offers a specific academic program consisting of an exchange of services for experience between the student and an organization. In addition to on-site working hours, meetings will be held, providing the students with insight into Italian community service culture, as well as an overview of the local employment market.

Our internship placements aim at creating a stimulating learning environment for the students, in order for them to gain valuable professional experience as interns in local and international NGOs and agencies, developing precious skills for their resumes and for their life.

Recent examples of placements include:

• Cestas: Fights against underdevelopment in the name of solidarity and human rights by operating relief projects in 27 countries.
• Piazza Grande: works alongside the homeless community in Bologna for individual reintegration and self-determination within a more humane society.
• BiodiverCity: encourages environmental awareness in the community through involvement in various projects, such as setting up urban gardens and working with children in agricultural community projects.

Course objectives:
Our internship course is designed to achieve five major purposes, allowing students to:

• apply classroom knowledge to a professional work environment;
• gain valuable professional experience in an international setting, thereby making their resumes more competitive in the U.S. and world labor markets;
• “test the waters” of a specific professional area of interest;
• “get a foot in the door” by accruing work experience in a professional area of interest;
• gain deeper historical, cultural and practical perspectives on Italian life.

Eligibility and selection procedure:
The internship program is not available to all academic majors. The vast majority of placements are within the international relations, human rights, and social justice realms. Students tend to be placed in local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community based service agencies. Occasionally, with advanced
planning, students have been placed in the business sector and within arts agencies in the city. Students with specific career interests (i.e. law, finance, etc.) must contact the Italy Center several months in advance, in order to determine if internships may be arranged.

Selection procedure:

In order to enter the selection procedure, students interested in the internship program must:

1. submit an info sheet via e-mail;
2. take part to an informational talk with the program coordinator (via skype);
3. enroll in an Italian language course (Elementary-Intermediate-Advanced) while undertaking an internship;
4. enroll in the HUM490 Humanities Internship course for their study abroad semester.

N.B. In order to enter the selection process, students ought to arrange their academic schedule allowing for at least 2 half-days per week to devote to their internship.

Spring Hill College Italy Center Attendance Policy:

The internship program (HUM490 Humanities Internship) is a 3-credit course, requiring 8-10 hours’ work per week at the placement site (for certain sites, evenings and/or weekends hours may constitute a requirement). Internship work normally begins the second/third week of the semester/quarter. On average, students acquire 70 to 90 hours of work at their placement site.

Additionally, students are required to attend 5 scheduled meetings. All meetings are mandatory: there will be no excused absences due to the fact that class meets only 5 times. In the unfortunate case that a student misses one or more meetings, a note from a medical doctor or from the Spring Hill College Director Todd Waller will be required, in order for the student not to be penalized for his or her absence.

Calendar of Internship Meetings

1. **Monday, January 26**: Introductory meeting to review internship expectations, presentation requirements and final paper instructions.

2. **Monday, February 16**: Internships overview presentation: what are you going to do and where (10'/15’ each)

3. **TBA**: Class meeting with a guest speaker - NGO activist. “Changing the World -challenge or opportunity?”

4. **Monday, March 16**: Meeting to review the state of final papers and final presentations.

5. **Monday, April 13**: Final presentation to class: evaluation of your own work experience and of the challenges faced by your organization in Italy and in an international perspective (10'/15’ each)

Evaluation:

Grades will be assigned by the Italy Center Internship Director (Dr. Nardini), in collaboration with the on-site supervisor.

The points and letter grades for the course will be structured as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points to be earned</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On-site attendance</td>
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<td>On-site performance evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation (w 4)</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation (w 11)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>final grade awarded</th>
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<td>92-90</td>
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<td>86-83</td>
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<td>82-80</td>
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Humanities Internship 2015 – Course Schedule

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- **On-site attendance** will evaluate punctuality and dedication to the placement site (capacity to organize a workable schedule, and arriving on time). Assessed twice (w.5 and w.11) by on-site supervisor.

- **On-site performance evaluation** will grade commitment towards project/workplace; capacity for individual research; enthusiasm/personal initiative; level of work produced. Assessed twice (w.5 and w.11) by on-site supervisor.

- A **presentation** of the internship experience will be given by each student in week 4 and in week 11.

**Final Paper:**

For your final paper, you are required to write a 2,500-3,000 word essay (10 pages approximately). Your final paper should consist of a **scholarly analysis** of the specific field in which you are working.

You will need to focus on both the general field in which you are working, and your specific internship organization. You will need to describe the organization according to its history, its mission, its operational structure, its work, and compare it to the nature and structure of international organizations in general.

A successful paper should also assess the reality of how things actually work in your specific field, by drawing on your internship experience and on your academic interests. Drawing on current academic literature, you will be required to explore some of the difficulties faced by your internship organization in relating with the local community, institutions, and/or its effectiveness in fulfilling its stated mission. Your final paper will provide you with ample opportunities to analyze and expand on various challenges you encountered during your time as an intern in Italy, turning difficulties into positive assets for your resume and for your overall life experience.

**Submission:**

Papers are due **by noon, April 15** (Wednesday week 12), both via email (anardini@shc.edu) and hard copy. Hard copies must be printed and stapled, with your word count clearly written on the first page. I **will not accept assignments via e-mail only.** Any final paper turned in after its deadline will be considered late. Late papers will receive a letter grade reduction for each day that they are late (including weekend days).

**References:**

At least four types of sources should be referenced and properly cited in your papers:

1. Scholarly literature. Please note that **4 refereed journal articles and 2 primary sources** (i.e., books) are the minimum appropriate academic standard. You may use googlebooks/kindle for books, JSTOR for periodicals, etc. Wikipedia, youtube videos and online short articles may be included in your bibliography, but they do not constitute an adequate replacement for the academic requirements outlined in (1);

2. Pamphlets and/or "in-house" analyses generated by your host office;

3. Websites related to your internship;

4. Interviews with members of your host office.
Dr. Alia Nardini’s Bio:
Born in Milan, Italy, Dr. Nardini moved to England to study Philosophy and Politics at the University of York. She then returned to her home country and acquired a PhD in History, Institutions and International Relations of Non-European Countries at the University of Pisa in 2008, specializing on American politics and the history of the Republican Party. She regularly follows U.S. elections for Italian magazines and newspapers, published various academic articles, and two books: one on war between morality and politics, and the second on American neoconservatism.

Dr. Nardini teaches Political Science and History at Spring Hill Italy Center, and coordinates the internships and undergraduate research programs. In the past, Dr. Nardini researched environmental issues with the National Trust in the United Kingdom, and with the World Wildlife Fund in Brindisi, Italy, where she was deeply involved in the Torre Guaceto Marine Reserve area, dealing with conservation issues, immigration and service learning projects with the local community. As well as co-directing the Puglia social justice immersion trip, her current interests focus on the history and politics of the United States, transatlantic relations, human rights promotion in American foreign policy and just war theory.