

ISS 4940: Philosophy, Politics, Economics, & Law Internship

I. General Information

Class Meetings

- Term: Spring 2026
- Asynchronous Online
- Determined by internship placement. (Must work at least 140 hours during the semester)
- 3 Credits

Instructor

- Instructor of Record: Jason Mastrogiovanni
- Location: E524
- Office hours: Tuesdays & Thursday 11-1pm, or by appointment
- Email: mastrogj@ufl.edu
- Phone: 352-294-7814

Course Description

PPEL majors may earn academic credit for completing a relevant internship. Students are responsible for identifying and securing their own internships and the internship must be pre-approved by the Hamilton Center's Director of Undergraduate Studies before the beginning of the semester in which it is to take place. Relevant internships include positions in government, public policy, law, financial institutions, non-profits, business, or consulting. Students will be expected to work at their internship for at least 140 hours during the semester.

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Apply critical thinking skills and philosophical, political, economic, and legal reasoning to real world situations
- Communicate and work with others in a professional manner

- Engage in reflection about the connections between academic PPEL study and their internship field

II. Graded Work

Description of Graded Work

- 1. Active Participation and Attendance: 25%**
 - a. Attendance at Internship: 10%**
 - i. Students are expected to work at their internship for at least 140 hours during the semester. Documented in weekly reports.
 - b. Participation in Canvas Discussion: 15%**
 - i. Students will post their weekly reports in Canvas to share with other students in the cohort.
 - ii. Students are expected to comment and ask questions of other students' experiences.
- 2. Weekly Reports: 25%**
 - a. Students will write a weekly report that:
 - i. lists the number of hours worked that week and
 - ii. describes in detail the activities completed at the internship that week.
 - iii. discuss relevant connections in internship practice to philosophical, political, economic, and legal reasoning coursework
- 3. Paper: 25%**
 - a. At the end of the semester, students will write an 8-10 page reflection on their internship experience that:
 - i. discusses connections between their academic PPEL coursework and their internship experiences and
 - ii. reflects on what they have learned during the course of the internship.
- 4. Supervisor Evaluation: 25%**
 - a. At the end of the semester, your supervisor must submit an evaluation. The evaluation must be signed, on letterhead, and must provide an assessment of your performance as an intern.

III. Weekly Schedule

Dates	Activities and Assignments Due
WEEK 1 JAN 14-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Report – Due Friday by 11:59pm Tentative - Synchronous meeting – Jan 15th
WEEK 2 JAN 19-23	MLK Day – JAN 19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Report – Due Friday by 11:59pm
WEEK 3 JAN 26-30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Report – Due Friday by 11:59pm
WEEK 4 FEB 2-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Report – Due Friday by 11:59pm
WEEK 5 FEB 9-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Report – Due Friday by 11:59pm
WEEK 6 FEB 16-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Report – Due Friday by 11:59pm
WEEK 7 FEB 23-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Report – Due Friday by 11:59pm
WEEK 8 MAR 2-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Report – Due Friday by 11:59pm
WEEK 9 MAR 2-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Report – Due Friday by 11:59pm
WEEK 10 MAR 9-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Report – Due Friday by 11:59pm
	Spring Break – MAR 16-20
WEEK 11 MAR 23-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Report – Due Friday by 11:59pm
WEEK 12 MAR 30 – APR 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Report – Due Friday by 11:59pm
WEEK 13 APR 6-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Report – Due Friday by 11:59pm
WEEK 14 APR 13-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Report – Due Friday by 11:59pm
WEEK 15 APR 20-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8-10 page PPEL reflection paper – Due Wednesday by 11:59pm Supervisor evaluation - Due Wednesday by 11:59pm

IV. Grading Scale and Rubrics

Grading Scale

For information on UF's grading policies for assigning grade points, see [here](#).

A	94 – 100%		C	74 – 76%
A–	90 – 93%		C–	70 – 73%
B+	87 – 89%		D+	67 – 69%
B	84 – 86%		D	64 – 66%
B–	80 – 83%		D–	60 – 63%
C+	77 – 79%		E	<60

Grading Rubrics

Active Participation and Attendance Rubric

	Attendance at Internship	Participation in Canvas Discussion
A (90-100%)	Attended all scheduled internship hours or made prior arrangements for any absence. Demonstrated exceptional punctuality and reliability.	Regularly contributed insightful, well-written posts. Engaged with peers through thoughtful replies and demonstrated consistent reflection on internship experiences.
B (80-89%)	Missed no more than 10 scheduled hours without prior notice, otherwise consistent and dependable attendance.	Consistently contributed relevant and thoughtful posts. Replied to peers' posts and demonstrated some reflection and critical thinking.
C (70-79%)	Missed no more than 20 scheduled hours, some without prior notice. Generally reliable, but some issues with punctuality or consistency.	Participated in most discussions. Posts were adequate but lacked depth or consistency in peer engagement.
D (60-69%)	Missed no more than 30 scheduled hours, multiple unexcused absences, or frequent tardiness. Attendance impacted internship performance.	Rarely contributed to discussions or provided minimal effort. Few responses to peers, limited reflection or engagement.
E (<60%)	Missed more than 30 scheduled hours or had chronic absenteeism/tardiness. Demonstrated a lack of commitment to the internship.	Did not participate in discussions or posted content that was off-topic or incomplete. No peer interaction.

Writing Rubric for Reflective Writing

	Thorough Description	Connection to Coursework	Depth of Reflection
A (90-100%)	Provides a detailed, accurate, and comprehensive account of daily/weekly tasks, responsibilities, and projects. Clearly communicates scope and context of the internship role.	Insightfully connects multiple aspects of the internship to theories, concepts, or debates from Philosophy, Politics, Economics, and Law. Demonstrates strong interdisciplinary understanding.	Deep and thoughtful reflection on personal and professional development. Clearly identifies strengths, areas for growth, and future goals with insight.
B (80-89%)	Describes most tasks and responsibilities with clarity. Some minor gaps in detail or context, but overall provides a solid understanding of the internship.	Draws meaningful connections to at least two PPEL disciplines. Shows understanding of how academic learning applies to real-world contexts.	Reflects on learning experiences with moderate depth. Identifies areas of growth and outlines some future aspirations.
C (70-79%)	Gives a general overview of internship tasks. Some important details are missing or underdeveloped. May lack clarity or organization.	Makes basic connections to PPEL content, but analysis may be shallow or limited to one discipline.	Some reflection on experience and development, but lacks depth or specificity. Future goals may be general or vague.
D (60-69%)	Provides limited or vague descriptions. Little effort to explain responsibilities or workplace context. Lacks coherence.	Few or unclear connections to coursework. Lacks depth or relevance in application of academic concepts.	Minimal reflection. Limited insight into personal growth or future direction.
E (<60%)	Description is minimal, incomplete, or inaccurate. Fails to communicate the nature of the internship effectively.	No meaningful connection to PPEL coursework is made. Demonstrates little to no integration of academic learning.	No meaningful reflection. Lacks awareness of personal development or career goals.

V. Required Policies

Information about grading and attendance policies, support for students with disabilities, course evaluations, the Honor Code, and other campus resources can be found at <https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>