**Internship & Seminar**  
ITRN 3000 (4 credits/120 hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:  
India: Public Health, Gender, and Community Action

**PLEASE NOTE:** This syllabus represents a recent semester. Because seminars develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual seminar content varies from semester to semester.

**Description**

This seminar consists of a four-week internship with a primary health care center, local public health organization, think tank with a focus on public health, research organization, m-Health business organization, social venture in public health, or international NGO with public health focus. The aim of an internship is to enable the student to gain valuable public health internship experience and enhance their skills in the developing world and an international work environment.

The internship provides an opportunity for practical experience in public health, or other related areas. The experience is meant to help students gain an understanding of the functions of a primary health care hospital, a public health organization, role of village health workers and their responsibilities. Thus this experience will provide students with the opportunity to engage in the reflective practitioner process as they are immersed in the field and gain experience.

SIT will use its extensive network to facilitate the placement process with an organization. The organization and the student’s internship activities, including the Internship Learning Agreement, must be approved by SIT’s academic director and by the Local Review Board for ethics considerations. Students must decide whether they want to undertake an internship by the end of the second week of the semester.

Regular reflection and assessment meetings are held with the academic director and/or internship coordinator to review the progress of the internship and learning associated with the internship experience.

The students complete an internship and submit a focus project paper in which they process their learning experience on the internship, analyze an issue important to the organization, and/or design a socially responsible solution to a problem identified by the organization. Approved in advance by the Academic Director, SIT’s Local Review Board (for ethical clearance purposes), and the internship supervisor, the internship focus project may involve interviews and other data collection methods relevant to achieving internship learning goals. The paper and final presentation reveal how those goals are linked to the SIT

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program theme and its Global Health Critical Global Issue focus. The paper should also document a comprehensive schedule and the specific skills and knowledge acquired through the experience. Rubrics for the focus project paper and presentation will be shared with students.

The Internship course includes a module titled Internship in the Context of rural and urban India, which is designed to help students build a foundation on which to engage in the internship experience.

**Learning Outcomes**
The Internship seminar comprises 120 hours. Upon completion of the seminar, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate awareness and apply concepts in the undertaking of the internship in the context of India;
- Produce an internship paper in which student assess the culmination of their learning experience;
- Provide an oral presentation in which student present the output of the internship experience;
- Show newly acquired knowledge and skills in one or more specific public health area in India;
- Assess the challenges of access to health care for women, children and other marginalized groups in India and developing world;
- Gain meaningful and practical internship experience in their chosen field.

**Language of Instruction**
This course is taught in English but students will be exposed to vocabulary related to course content through in-country expert lectures and field visits in a wide range of venues and regional locales prior to the start of the internship.

**Internship Requirements**

**Module 1: Making the Most of Your Internship**
During this module, students will prepare for the internship and the writing of the internship paper, have regular meetings with the academic director, reflect on the internship experience, and learn how to use their experience for future professional growth.

**Session 1: Setting the Stage**
This session reviews objectives for the internship. Students meet with the academic director following confirmation of their internship placement and discuss expectations, timeframes and other logistics, structural components of the final internship paper, content, layout, and general guidelines.

**Sessions 2 & 3: The Internship Experience: Review and Reflection**
These sessions focus on the review and reflection process of the internship experience. Students set weekly learning objectives, keep an internship journal, and write two progress reports on their learning experience.

**Required Readings:**
Readings are assigned to meet the needs of the current term.

**Recommended Readings:**

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Module 2: Internship Final Paper and Presentation Design and Content
This module focuses on the design and mechanics of the internship final paper. The module covers the final paper’s structural design, organization, and guidelines for effective self-reflection on the internship experience and appraisal of acquired internship experience.

Session 1: Description of the Host Institution
This session focuses on the general guidelines for the description of the host institution. The session walks the student through samples of a brief description (one page) of the host institution for the internship, the nature of the services offered, and a profile of the customers who use them. The session also highlights the importance of including brochures or collateral material that further describes the institution.

Session 2: Description of Tasks Performed on the Internship
This session provides guidelines for effective ways of describing tasks performed as an intern. The session covers the importance of third-person narration (as if the student, acting as a manager, were writing it for a new employee/associate), outline form (except for the internship summary section), and headings for each of the sessions. A suggested outline for this description includes:

- Internship role/title and place of employment
- Internship summary—narrative summary of the activities of the position
- Qualifications—education and experience required and/or desirable
- Internship conditions—uniform requirements, physical surroundings, internship days, hours, etc.
- Internship relationships—who is the mentor and to whom does the student report
- Specific duties and responsibilities—a list should be provided to indicate all duties performed by the individual in this position

Section 3: Output of the Internship Experience
This session focuses on output of the internship experience, which may include a proposal for a strategic response to an existing problem, a creation of a sustainable plan, a grant proposal, or research that responds to the need of an organization that links back to the program theme and Global Health Critical Global Issue.

Session 4: Personal Assessment of the Internship Performance
This session provides guidelines for an assessment of the key learning milestones acquired on the internship experience, the challenges faced, and the possible impact of the experience on the student’s academic and professional career. The session also covers a reflection on the internship experience, including the output of the internship (addressed in Session 3), as it relates to the critical global issue central to the program theme.

Session 5: Oral Presentation of the Internship Final Paper
This module focuses on the mechanics and guidelines for the presentation of the internship final paper. The presentation should take 20 minutes and students are encouraged to use audiovisual aid/handouts to facilitate their presentations.

Session content includes:

- Presenting a brief overview of the internship experience
- Communicating assigned responsibilities and tasks performed
- Articulating major output of the experience
- Providing personal assessment of the internship performance.

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**Module 3: Processing and Maximizing the Internship Experience**
This module focuses on ways of processing and articulating the internship as well as equipping students with practical tips and strategies for making the most of the experience personally, academically, and professionally.

**Session 1: Talking About the Internship Experience**
This session allows students to reflect on the internship experience and process the learning that occurred in a safe and supportive context. The internship may have been a different experience than expected, may challenge the student’s expectations of interning in a diverse and challenging environment, and may change the student’s perspective of life projects or professional goals. The module discusses ways of acknowledging both the successes and failures of the internship, of completing tasks, handing over projects to and sharing insights with colleagues on the internship, and setting realistic goals for the future.

Session content includes:
- Processing the End of the Internship Experience
- Closure with Colleagues and Supervisors
- Articulating the Experience and Setting Plans for the Future

**Session 2: How to Include Your Internship on Your Résumé**
During this session, students will learn appropriate ways of including their internship on their résumés and in online professional platforms such as LinkedIn.

**Session 3: Next Steps**
This final session occurs in the final week of the program, as students plan their next steps, academically and professionally. Students discuss fears and strategies for building on this experience in the future, opportunities for professional growth, and how to make optimal use of the internship experience. They will discuss ways to describe the experience gained and skills learned in their internship in cover letters and how to use this experience for future professional growth.

**Ethics**
The internship experience must reflect SIT’s ethics policy and commitment to the values of reciprocity. Students must respect, protect and promote the rights and the welfare of all those affected by their internship by doing everything in their power to protect the dignity and privacy of the people with whom they intern. Likewise, respect, care and attention should be given to protecting, conserving and restoring the natural environment.

The student intern should also abide by the policy and regulations of the host institution including dress, punctuality, and employee behavior. Violations of SIT’s code of conduct or employee conduct at the host institution will result in an immediate termination of the internship and can lead to further disciplinary sanctions by SIT.

Students must not represent as their own work, either in speaking or writing, materials or ideas, directly taken from other sources. They must give full credit in speaking or writing to all those who have contributed to their work. Severe academic penalties apply for deliberate plagiarism or other academic dishonesty.

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**Evaluation and Grading Criteria**

At the end of the internship period, students are expected to present their work to the group. Assessment of both written work and the oral presentation is based on quality, academic scholarship, and adherence to the highest ethical standards.

**Description of Assignments**

**Discussion and Reflection Sessions**
Discussion and reflection sessions take place on a weekly basis. Students are expected to share their personal experience in the internship and reflect on the professional learning process. These discussion and reflection sessions are key elements in the process of the learning experience and the student’s professional achievements within the host organization.

**Progress Reports**
The progress report should document the progress of the student’s professional and personal learning on the internship. Students document aspects of the challenges they face and how they try to deal with those challenges. Students submit two progress reports in the course of their internship experience.

**Internship Performance**
This evaluation by the Academic Director assesses the student’s internship experience, overall professional achievements, and self-growth.

**Oral Presentation**
In the presentation, you should provide a succinct and clear description of the internship experience, a brief history of the organization where you interned, and the responsibilities undertaken. The oral presentation should relate the learning associated with the focus project and reflect on its relevance to the program theme and *Global Health Critical Global Issue*. You should demonstrate effective management of the discussion with the audience and attend to the aesthetic elements of the delivery. A summary of the oral presentation assessment rubric will be shared with students in advance.

**Final Paper**
Students are expected to submit a final paper at the end of their internship experience. The final paper should include a title, list of acknowledgments, and an abstract. The paper should also have an introduction which summarizes the work and history of the organization and incorporates a number of references, detailed description of internship accomplishments, and strong and innovative aspects of the organization. The paper should be well-written, well-organized, and aesthetically pleasing. A summary of the final paper assessment rubric will be shared with students in advance.

**Assessment of the Internship**

- Discussion and Reflection Sessions: 10%
- 2 Progress Reports: 10%
- Internship Performance: 35%
- Oral Presentation: 10%
- Final Paper: 35%

**Grading Scale**

- 94-100%: A
- 90-93%: A-

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Expectations and Policies
Show up prepared and appropriately dressed: many hospitals, public health organizations and government departments may expect a dress code. Be always on time, have your preparations completed and points in mind for an interview or meeting. Comply with internship organization’s rules and protocols.

Have progress report assignments completed on schedule and done accordingly to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.

Ask questions when in the field/office. Engage yourself in everyday life of the organization and initiate interaction.

Comply with academic integrity policies (no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).

Respect differences of opinion (internship supervisor, colleagues, classmates’, lecturers, and local constituents engaged). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment, and the academic appeals process.

Disability Services: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services at disabilityservices@sit.edu for information and support in facilitating an accessible educational experience. Additional information regarding SIT Disability Services, including a link to the online request form, can be found on the Disability Services website at http://studyabroad.sit.edu/disabilityservices.

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