

Internship Seminar

ITRN-3010 (3 credits)

Jordan: Internship in Climate Change and Sustainability

This syllabus is representative of a typical semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar is a companion course to the Internship Practice course designed to encourage reflection, engagement, and critical thinking as students process their internship experiences within the context of Jordan and the theme of Climate Change and Sustainability. In addition to providing students with contextual, ethical, and practical knowledge to work successfully and professionally at the internship placement, this seminar creates space for students to focus on themes such as cultural observations, connections to program readings and themes, new knowledge gained in their chosen fields, and insights into their own culture and worldview.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Contextualize their internship experience within the existing development and environmental challenges that local communities face in Jordan.
- Situate their positionality in intercultural academic and professional settings
- Engage with vulnerable populations and ecosystems ethically
- Assess their skills and create short- and long-term development goals both academically and in their personal career management.
- Synthesize their learning experiences in the internship through a developed portfolio

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

This internship will be primarily based in English, but interns will be exposed to vocabulary related to the internship through a wide range of venues and regional locales prior to the start of the internship program.

ETHICS

The internship experience must reflect SIT's ethics policy and commitment to the values of reciprocity. 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.

ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW

Participation (10%): Students are expected to show up prepared for class, and having completed the appropriate readings, participate in class discussions, field activities, and carry out all assignments and other activities.

Progress Meetings (20%): You will meet regularly (minimum of 4 meetings) with the Academic Director or Internship Coordinator to review the progress of the internship, learning associated with the internship experience, and to draw out broader issues related to program themes, positionality, culture, and ethics in the context of the internship. These conversations are key elements for personal, academic, and professional development during the internship. Grading is based on preparation for the conference, attendance, and engagement in the discussion.

Final Portfolio (50%): The final portfolio is composed of 4 components, detailed below. Rubrics for the final portfolio and presentation will be shared with students in-country.

- Final Paper (60%)
- Representative work samples (20%)
- Revised Resume (10%)
- Linked In Profile (10%)

Final Paper: Students will compose a 6–8-page essay that synthesizes their learning from their internship experience and connects it to the broader themes of climate change and/or sustainability. Students should contextualize their experience by introducing the host organization's mission and activity within the community/region and identifying how that intersects with program themes. They should further contextualize

their positionality within the organization and how that informed their approach to working in an intercultural context. The main discussion should analyze the benefits to the organization (contributions, projects, and accomplishments) and to the student (knowledge, transferable skills, and core competencies they gained) as well as any challenges encountered that hindered success. The conclusion should highlight the main insights and lessons learned through the internship experience and explain how they will apply this learning in future academic and professional settings.

Representative Work Samples: Work samples are tangible examples of the tasks, projects, or achievements completed during the internship. These samples showcase the intern's skills, contributions, and overall performance. The specific work samples can vary widely depending on the nature of the internship. Common examples include reports, data gathering and analysis, presentation materials, marketing assets (website content, social media posts, brochures, etc), training materials, etc. When compiling work samples, consider confidentiality and privacy agreements, ensuring that the materials shared comply with the policies of the internship host organization.

Revised Resume: Students will update their resumes to reflect appropriately the knowledge, skills, core competencies, responsibilities, and accomplishments amassed via their internship experience.

LinkedIn Profile: Students will create or update their LinkedIn profile to integrate the knowledge skills, and accomplishments from their internship experience.

Presentation (20%): Students will also give a final presentation to demonstrate how the internship experience enhanced their understanding of the SIT program theme and its Critical Global Issue focus.

Grading Scale	
94-100%	A
90-93%	A-
87-89%	B+
84-86%	B
80-83%	B-
77-79%	C+
74-76%	C
70-73%	C-
67-69%	D+

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64-66%	D
below 64%	F

SEMINAR OVERVIEW

WEEK 1: INTERNSHIP IN THE CONTEXT OF JORDAN

Session 1: Climate Change and Sustainability in the Context of Jordan and the Middle East

This session lays the groundwork for students to effectively understand and address environmental issues in the region by providing an in-depth look at the environment, climate change, and sustainability in Jordan and the Middle East. Students will have the opportunity to reinforce their understanding through field visits, allowing them to establish connections between theoretical concepts and applications.

Topics include:

- Water resources and scarcity in Jordan and the Middle East
- Environmental challenges in Jordan and the Middle East
- Sustainability in Jordan
- Renewable energy opportunities in Jordan (small- and large-scale projects)
- Agriculture in Jordan and sustainable strategies

Excursions:

- Royal Botanic Garden (water resource management)
- King Talal Dam (the biggest Dam in Jordan, which collects around 60 million cubic meters used in Agriculture)

Required Readings:

- Ministry of Environment (2021) The National Climate Change Adaptation Plan of Jordan.
https://www.moenv.gov.jo/ebv4.0/root_storage/ar/eb_list_page/final_draft_nap-2021.pdf

Session 2: Local Communities and Sustainability

This module offers students an in-depth exploration of resource sustainability strategies employed by local communities, placing a strong emphasis on policy and social science perspectives. Students will investigate the historical practices and indigenous knowledge that have traditionally been effective in promoting resource sustainability.

Topics include:

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- Natural resource management and local knowledge
- Rain harvesting system design and construction: pilot projects
- Water conservation and management in arid and semi-arid regions: Al-Azraq oasis project
- Greywater reuse for green refugee camps

Required Readings:

- Stoeffler W. (2018). Community Empowerment In book: Handbook of Community Movements and Local Organizations in the 21st Century. DOI: [10.1007/978-3-319-77416-9_16](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-77416-9_16)
- Rural Women and climate change in Jordan. UN women (2018) Environmental Change through Community Empowerment. <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/66494>.

WEEK 2: VULNERABLE POPULATIONS AND ECOSYSTEMS

Session 1: The Ethics of Working with Vulnerable Populations and Ecosystems

This week will focus on the ethics of interacting with vulnerable populations and vulnerable ecosystems within the context of Jordan and their internship site. The module also critically examines the intricate relationship between sustainability and refugees, who make up a sizable portion of Jordan's population, by shedding light on how refugees can both exert pressure on resources and act as catalysts for sustainable solutions. Students will have the opportunity to observe environmental justice and how vulnerable populations are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation and climate-related events.

Session 2: Excursions

- Azraq wetland reserve
- Ancient water harvesting system (Petra)

Assignments

- Progress Meeting #1: Meet with the Academic Director

WEEK 3: MAKING THE MOST OF THE INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

The focus of this week is equipping students with practical tips and strategies for making the most of the experience personally, academically, and professionally.

Session 1: Collaboration, Communication, and Project Management

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This session will cover how to contribute positively to the workplace through collaboration with colleagues, effectively communicating in an intercultural setting, and planning, organizing, and managing tasks and projects.

Session 2: Networking and Relationship Building

This session will address how to build and maintain professional relationships within the organization and the necessary skills to connect with professionals, mentors, and potential future employers. We will also discuss networking strategies to implement beyond the internship program.

Assignments

- Progress Meeting #2: Meet with the Academic Director

WEEK 4: PROCESSING THE INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Session 1: Managing Expectations and Adjusting to Reality

This session allows students to reflect on the internship experience in a safe and supportive setting. The internship experience may be different than expected, challenge the student's expectations of working in a diverse environment, and change their professional goals perspective.

Session 2: Preparing for the Final Weeks of the Internship

The session 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 job and setting realistic goals for the future.

Assignments:

Progress Meeting #3: Meet with the Academic Director and fellow program interns for group dialogue.

WEEK 5: PORTFOLIO PREPARATION

Session 1: Internship Portfolio and Presentation Preparation

This session focuses on the content of the final portfolio with an emphasis on the final paper's purpose, context, content, organization, and relevance to the broader themes of climate change and/or sustainability. We will also discuss how to select work samples and refer to them in the paper to illustrate your observations and analysis.

Session 2: Internship, Core Competencies, and Career Readiness

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We review appropriate ways of including their internship on their résumés and on online professional platforms such as LinkedIn. There will be access to a Canvas module available with resources.

Assignments

- Progress Meeting #4: Meet with the Academic Director and cohort mates in preparation for internship closing.
- Update resume and LinkedIn profile to include internship experience
- Work on final paper and portfolio
- Start developing your presentation

Week 6: Internship Closing & Critical Analysis of Impact

This week focuses on the strategies to build on this experience in transferable work settings.

Sessions 1&2: Presentations

Session 3: Next Steps

This final session is reserved for students to share their next steps, academically and professionally. Students discuss fears and strategies for building on this experience in other work settings, 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.

Assignments

- Submit portfolio
- Final presentations

PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS

- Show up prepared. Be on time, have your readings completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.
- Have assignments completed on schedule, printed, and done according to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.

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- Ask questions in class. Engage the lecturer. These are often very busy professionals who are doing us an honor by coming to speak.
- Comply with academic integrity policies (no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).
- Respect differences of opinion (classmates', lecturers, local constituents engaged with on the visits). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across differences and consider other perspectives with respect.
- Storing Your Work: Keep several copies of your work as back up and keep one copy accessible to you through an online forum, such as an attachment in your email, the course learning management system, or cloud-based storage. Lost files, deleted drives, or computer crashes are not excuses for late, missing work.
- Personal Technology Use: Cell phones and other personal electronics can be used for taking notes and other class activities. Off-task usage is not acceptable. You may be marked as absent for habitually using them for something other than classroom activities.
- Course Communication: Course documents and assignments will be posted on the learning management system, Canvas. Although the course calendar provides a broad overview and the general sequence of work and assignments for the course, what we accomplish in class will vary, and revisions to the calendar will be posted at the course site. You will need to check the course site regularly. You are responsible for informing the Academic Director about any network-related problems that may influence your participation in this course.
- Content Considerations: Some texts and activities you will encounter in this course delve into sensitive topics that may be emotionally and intellectually challenging. Our classroom is a space where we can engage with challenging ideas, question assumptions, and navigate difficult topics with respect and maturity. As possible, I will flag content and activities that are especially graphic or intense, so we are prepared to address them soberly and sensitively. If you are struggling to keep up with the work or participate in the course because of the nature of the content and activities, you should speak with me and/or seek help from counseling services.
- Classroom recording policy: To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.

SIT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

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Please refer to the [SIT Study Abroad Handbook](#) and the [Policies](#) section of the SIT website for all academic and student affairs policies. Students are accountable for complying with all published policies. Of particular relevance to this course are the policies regarding: academic integrity, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), research and ethics in field study and internships, late assignments, academic status, academic appeals, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and misconduct, and the student code of conduct.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad Handbook and SIT website for information on important resources and services provided through our central administration in Vermont, such as [Library resources and research support](#), [Disability Services](#), [Counseling Services](#), [Title IX information](#), and [Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion](#) resources.

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