

**Law, Societies and Justice 401:**  
**Field Experience in Law, Societies and Justice**  
**Autumn 2016**  
**Wednesdays | 8:30am-9:20am | Smith 107**

Professor Steve Herbert  
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Smith M258

Co-Facilitators:  
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Smith M253

**Course Website:** <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1067334>

## **Introduction**

This course provides you an opportunity to explore the workings of law and justice in a particular local environment, and to assess more abstract classroom discussions against direct “real world” experience. This internship enables you to develop your capacity to understand and analyze socio-legal dynamics as they occur in actual social settings.

During our weekly class sessions, you will engage in career development activities in an effort to (1) identify your career-related strengths, (2) convey to potential employers the practical and analytical skills you possess as an LSJ major, (3) explore what a fulfilling career would look like for you, and (4) prepare for the job application process after graduation.

The internship may also provide you an opportunity to explore possible career paths and/or to establish professional networks. You should also develop a clearer understanding of the work of law in the world, and to explore the possible future roles you might wish to play.

## **Expectations**

Students in this course must meet the following course expectations:

- (a) Complete a minimum of 100 hours of service at the internship site;
- (b) Complete an analytical paper;
- (c) Attend regular weekly class sessions and complete periodic short assignments;
- (d) Complete a site evaluation form;
- (e) Arrange for the completion and submission of an internship supervisor form;
- (f) Participate actively in career development exercises.

Students will meet with the course instructors weekly throughout the quarter (unless otherwise noted) to discuss their experiences, to engage in career exploration, to learn concrete job search strategies and skills, and to explore options for their analytical papers. Attendance at these class sessions is necessary to fulfill the course goals successfully. Some weeks will be devoted to subgroup discussions about the course paper. Students will be split into those subgroups based upon their internship site. The population of each subgroup will be determined after fall quarter enrollment is closed.

## **Class Sessions**

### Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>

Goals of the Course, Planning for a Successful Internship, Professional Etiquette, Internship Goal Setting, UW Career Resources Overview

### Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>

Networking 101, Informational Interviews

LSJ Alumni Guest Speaker Doug McManaway, LSJ '10, UW Law '17

**Read:** "Networking: Is it Really about Who You Know? Yes." Idealist.org (pp. 55-65)

**Read:** "Informational Interviews" Idealist.org (pp. 66-70)

### Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>

#### **Meet in Smith 220 Computer Lab**

LinkedIn Lab + LinkedIn Headshots Photo Booth!

You'll be working on your LinkedIn profile during class time while Alex and Alyssa take your headshot for your professional profile photo. **Wear professional clothing** for your photo.

### Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>

Identifying Your Career-Related Strengths, Interests, and Values

**Read:** "Seven Lessons about Finding the Work You Were Meant to Do," May (pp. 1-4).

**Read:** "Graduating and Looking for Your Passion? Be Patient," Duckworth (pp. 1-4).

### Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>

Resumes + Cover Letters

**Read:** UW Career Guide section on Resumes & Cover Letters (pp. 24-42).

**Assignment:** Bring your current resume to class for peer review

### Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>

Subgroup Meeting I

### Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>

Subgroup Meeting II

### Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>

Subgroup Meeting III

### Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>

No Class

### Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>

"Unexpected" LSJ Career Paths, LSJ Alumni Guest Speaker

### Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

Beginning the Job Search, Deciphering Job Descriptions

**Assignment:** Bring to class a print out of one job posting/description of a job you're interested in

## Analytic Paper

Students must complete a 10-12 page analytic paper. The paper will consist of two main components of roughly equal length: an organizational analysis and an issue analysis. Each component is discussed in more detail below:

Organizational Analysis: This component of the paper asks you to describe the work of your internship organization and to situate it within wider legal, institutional and political dynamics. Please include a discussion of the goals of the organization and those factors – both internal and external – that influence its ability to achieve those goals.

To do this well, students should address at least several of the following questions:

*What is the primary purpose(s) of the organization?*

*How is the organization structured? Are there particular divisions with distinct purposes? If so, how do these distinct purposes inter-relate?*

*How does your organization relate to other organizations, particularly in terms of law and justice? Are these relations complementary or conflictual? Why?*

*Who were the “clients” of the organization? Why those individuals? How are these clients assisted?*

*What are the main goals of the organization? Are these goals couched in terms of justice? If so, how?*

*From your experience, are the main organizational goals met consistently? If so, why? If not, what impediments prevent greater success?*

*What are the most important political issues facing the organization, both in terms of its internal dynamics and its relations with external entities? Why are they important?*

*How did your work fit within the wider organization and its broader aims?*

*Was your work beneficial to the organization? Why or why not?*

Issue Analysis: This component asks you to analyze a particular law/justice issue that your organization confronts regularly. This analysis should occur through a critical interrogation of at least two academic articles or books that address the issue. Your challenge is to assess your own direct experience in the site against the analysis presented in the academic work. This requires that you develop a sustained argument, and not just state your opinions. Importantly, you are expected to include data you collect while at your site, most likely through either direct observations or through interviews, as the basis for your analysis.

We will use classroom sessions to discuss possible directions for the issue analysis. That said, you are strongly advised to isolate an issue for analysis as early in the quarter as possible, and to begin a search for appropriate academic source materials.

The paper should include an introduction, a clear thesis statement, a concise but accurate summary of the academic literature, a description and analysis of your data, and a strong conclusion. The better papers will unite the organizational and issue analysis components together into a clear and coherent whole.

## Evaluations

There are two sets of evaluations that are required for this course. One is the *site supervisor's evaluation* of student intern performance. This is to verify that you complete your 100 hour commitment. Please bring a copy of this form to your supervisor, and ask him/her to complete it and place it in an envelope with his/her signature across the seal.

The second is the *student evaluation of internship experience*. We ask that you fill out an evaluation of your internship, which will be put on file in the LSJ Advising Office and to be made available to other internship students.

Both of these evaluations must be included with your analytic paper at the end of the quarter. Both of these forms are available for downloading from the LSJ website, under the Student Forms tab: <http://lsj.washington.edu/student-forms>

## Due Dates

The analytic paper and the evaluations are due to Professor Herbert by 5 p.m. on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. They can be placed in his mailbox in Smith M253.

***Late papers will only be accepted with prior approval by Professor Herbert; such approval will likely be contingent on a medical or family emergency.***

## Access and Accommodations

Your experience in this class is important to us, and it is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you experience barriers based on disability, please seek a meeting with Disability Resources for Students to discuss and address them: 206-543-8924 or [uwdrs@uw.edu](mailto:uwdrs@uw.edu) or [disability.uw.edu](http://disability.uw.edu). If you have already established accommodations with DRS, please communicate your approved accommodations to your instructor at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs in this course.