Internship Workforce Course

Professor Jamie Woodcock

Course Description: The Internship Workforce course provides students with an overview of working in the United Kingdom. The course looks at the changing organizational structures of work in Britain. It examines the social and economic changes that affect the workplace in the UK.

Topics covered include:
- Sociology of work
- Trade Unions
- Oppression at work
- Generational changes at work
- The future of work

An internship while studying in London provides an opportunity to experience a “hands on” working situation and a different perspective on the workplace and working practices, while developing professional skills.

Course Objectives:
- Students will acquire a basic knowledge of debates surrounding work in the UK, including economic, social, political and legal.
- Students will critically analyze the different ways that workplaces can be organized.
- Students will engage in meaningful debate and discussion and improve research and presentation skills.
- Students will be able to analyze the distribution and control of skills, organization, and tacit knowledge in the workplace, and understand their centrality to authority.
- Students will look at the role of external agencies in the shaping of labor regimes, involving the creation of legal rights over hours, pensions, health and safety or harassment and discrimination at work.
- Students will understand different social regimes governing work, from the ‘job-for-life’ and ‘breadwinner’ model, to portfolio working and the zero-hour contract.

Grading:
- Placement Supervisor Report 10%
- Class Presentations 20%
- Essay 35%
- Internship Research Report 35%

Attendance Policy:
Students are expected to prepare for each session, to the extent that they are able to point to the key problems and challenges of each topic. Attendance at ALL sessions and excursions is obligatory, failure of which will result in an automatic grade deduction.