PHIL 395 – Internship

Statement of Purpose: This course gives junior and senior majors an opportunity to gain work experience in a field of career interest and to explore how philosophical issues arise in that career domain. With the assistance of a faculty supervisor, the student will develop a plan of studies that combines workplace experience and academic exploration of philosophical literature related to that workplace.

Procedure: The student is responsible for identifying a host agency and a site supervisor within that agency. The student will work with the site supervisor and faculty supervisor to establish a plan for the internship. The plan of studies (proposal) will be presented to the department for review. Students will not be enrolled until the proposal has received departmental approval.

Proposal: Although each internship experience is unique, all proposals should include certain core elements. A 3 credit-hour internship typically requires 100-120 hours on-site (10 hours/week for 10-12 weeks). In addition, each internship must include an academic component. The student and the faculty supervisor will develop a plan of directed reading and written work. Each proposal should address all four of the following categories:

1. Practical details: What company will the student work for? What specific work will the student perform? How many hours/week? Who will supervise the work on site? (The proposal must include a letter from the site supervisor indicating his/her willingness to oversee the student’s work.)
2. Relation to Career Goals: How is this internship related to your career goals/interests?
3. Academic Components: How often will the student and the faculty supervisor meet? What philosophical reading will be involved? What writing assignments will the student complete? (All proposals should include a final essay where student reflects on (a) how the internship has shaped their career goals and (b) how workplace experience has shaped their understanding of the philosophical issues they’ve studied.)
4. How will the final course grade be determined? (This should include a report from the site supervisor as well as the intern’s philosophical/academic work.)

Pre-requisites: PHIL major; Junior or Senior standing; permission of instructor. Normally, we expect the student to have at least a 3.0 GPA in the major.

Deadline: For Spring internships, proposals are due November 15; for Fall internships, they are due April 15th.

Please attach the proposal to this form and sign at the bottom.

__________________________________________  ______________________________________
Student                                                                                     Date

__________________________________________  ______________________________________
Professor                                                                                 Date

__________________________________________  ______________________________________
Department Chair                                                                         Date