Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a useful understanding of the working environment in Spain as well as a cultural and social knowledge of the community in which they will live and work. Throughout the course, students will discuss a variety of topics related to workplace dynamics and will gain familiarity with several cultural, political, social, and economic aspects of modern Spanish society.

The Boston University Madrid Internship program combines academic coursework and professional experience. Therefore, the course has two parts: a) the professional internship in which the student will work for 15 to 20 hours per week, and b) the required academic portion and coursework.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will gain skills related to a specific profession or occupation.

2. Students will gain a better understanding of workplace dynamics, professional expectations, and the influence of culture on both. By working closely with a supervisor and colleagues, students will become more conscious of how work-related matters in Spain differ from those in the United States.

3. Students will build proficiency in a large range of business or industry skills related the field of the internship placement, including professional and intercultural communication. Therefore, in many cases, students will improve their level of Spanish and gain a better understanding of what it means to be bilingual and bicultural.

4. Students will explore career options and gain general work experience, perhaps resulting in a redefinition and clarification of professional goals through critical analysis, which will be an important focus of written assignments.

5. By completing the in-class presentation and research project, students will be able to analyze their internship experience, including the company/organization's mission, structure, work dynamics, policies, and the context in which it operates, thereby making connections with future personal and professional goals.
Requirements

Students must complete assigned readings before each class, and will turn in printed written assignments on time. Work turned in after the deadline and without prior communication with the instructor will receive a lower grade, or may not be accepted. Classes will focus on the analysis and debate of readings and assignments. Thus, students must come to class prepared and informed in order to actively participate in class discussions.

Each student is responsible for reading the Boston University statement on plagiarism, available in the Academic Conduct Code. Students should be aware that the penalty for plagiarizing or cheating in a Boston University program includes "...expulsion from the program or the University or such other penalty as may be recommended by the Committee on Student Academic Conduct, subject to approval by the Dean." The Academic Conduct Code can be viewed in its entirety here: http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/

Grading Policy

Once the internship has been successfully completed, the grade will be weighted as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral presentation</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-evaluation report</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final project</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attendance and Participation (10%): The participation grade is based on students' general level of in-class motivation and contribution and not just on attendance. Students must turn in the written assignments at the beginning of each session. The instructor will return graded and corrected assignments the following class.

Boston University Study Abroad in Madrid holds a strict policy on the attendance of this course. No absences are permitted and 20% will be deducted from the final participation and attendance grade for each class missed. In order for an absence to be excused, students will need to turn in a doctor's note for health-related absences. Students are also expected to be punctual and to stay for the duration of each class. Each late arrival or early departure will negatively affect the participation grade. If the internship schedule conflicts with that of the academic portion of the course, please contact the instructor immediately. Any other conflicts should be previously discussed with the instructor.

Oral Presentation and Self-Evaluation Report (25% + 10% = 35%): In the second half of the semester, students will give a 7-minute oral presentation. It will consist of a general description of the company/organization. The presentation must be informative and given in a professional manner, and must include a handout for audience members. The presentation and handout should include a creative and detailed analysis of the company/organization and not necessarily students' opinions about the internship itself. Presentations will be filmed, and students will later complete a self-evaluation with a detailed explanation of their own identified strengths and weaknesses.

More specific details will be posted on Blackboard or emailed by the instructor two weeks prior to both assignments.
Final Project (35%): At the end of the semester, students will turn in a 7-8 page paper that will describe important aspects of the internship experience. The assignment must be well-written and include appropriate bibliographical references. The paper is meant to be an assessment of the work carried out in the internship and should include reflections on the internship experience as a whole. It may include a comparative study with other similar companies/organizations in Madrid, Europe, or the US.

Some of the questions that must be addressed are:

What are the objectives of your company/organization?
Research other companies/organizations in the same sector in Madrid or the US. Do they operate differently? In what ways? Describe these differences in detail.
What are, in your opinion, the strengths and weaknesses of this company/organization?
What have you learned about work dynamics or industry skills?
How do you believe that this internship experience will affect your future? Has it helped you to clarify your professional career goals? Have you considered changing, or have you changed any aspects of your career goals, discipline, or path because of it? Describe this in detail.

Students will discuss the topic of their final projects with the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Students will then begin to search for information and sources for weekly assignments. The final project must include serious and rigorous research.

Mandatory Readings:

All readings covered in class will be made available on Blackboard or will be emailed by the instructor a week before each session. Readings deal with specific topics which will be discussed in class.


FRIDAY: Orientation for business internships, Interview with EUSA

Class 1. (Lunes) 19 de enero, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. (Room TBA) Introduction to the course:
(All classes will be held in the BU Madrid Cerner: Calle/ Miguel Ángel 8, except this first class that will be held in the Universidad Autónoma)

Class 2. (martes) 27 de enero, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. The Spanish labor market and cultural differences
Art. 1: The labor market: Perspectives, job searching, work permits, salaries and schedules, the health system, languages and dialects.
Art. 2: Work satisfaction and the work day in ABC (8-1-2014)
Art. 3: Cultural differences, principles for intercultural communication (europedia.com)
Art. 4: Differences between Europeans Americans (imagen.turistica.wordpress.com)
Art. 5: Stereotypes about Spain and its image in the USA (Boletín del Real Instituto Elcano, 2008)
Art. 6: Brown. Social cultural factors (Chapter 7, 2007)

Class 3. (martes) 3 de febrero, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Political and Social Aspects of Society
Art. 7: This generation is looking for a plan B (El país, 19-9-2010)
Art. 8: Immigration: Crisis rids of immigrants (BBC MUNDO, bbc.co.uk 15-5-2011)
Art. 9: Custom-fit families: The 21st century family (El País, 18-06-2011)
Art. 10: More movement in Madrid: The indignant bear (El Mundo, 18-05-2011)
Art. 11: We are the “nini” generation (17-05-2011)
Art. 12: Pablo Iglesias: Cheiftan (24-01-2014)
Art. 13: PP y PSOE atribuyen el efecto podemos a los casos de corrupción (El País, 2-11-2014)

Class 4. (martes) 10 de febrero, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. The Labor Market and Spanish Companies
Final Project: Sources and bibliography DUE
Art. 14: Zara conquers the world (El País, 8-06-2008)
Art. 15: Mango: The other example of successful Spanish fashion (finanzas.com, 20-10-2012)
Art. 16: Spain and fashion paradise (El País, 30-08-2014)
Art. 17: Spain finds luck in exportation (Expansión, 12-12-2012)
Art. 18: Foods "Made in Spain" (Expansión, 12-12-2014)
Art. 19: The Automobile Enlivens the Industrial Sector (abc.es, 13-03-2014)
Art. 20: Hospitality and Tourism: Key Sectors for Economic Recovery (eleconomista.es, 2-11-2014)

Class 5. (martes) 17 de febrero, 7:00 p.m. EUSA Intercultural Communication Workshop

Class 6. 24 de febrero, 7:00 p.m. Questions about the preliminary draft, Room 402.
(OPTIONAL: Schedule an appointment with the professor through email for this date.)

Class 7. 4 de marzo. Email submission of preliminary draft.
The draft should be 4 pages long, and the bibliography should contain at least 8 references.

Classes 8. 14 de abril, 6.00-9.00. (Room TBA) Oral Presentations.
Students should only attend their scheduled session.

Class 9. 22 de abril, 7:00 p.m. Electronic submission of Self-Evaluation Report.

Class 10. 28 de abril, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Review: What have we learned about Spain?
Discussion of The Art of Crossing Cultures, Storti (2007).

Class 12. 30 de abril, 7:00 p.m. Electronic submission of final project.
El 8 de mayo es el último día de la práctica para los estudiantes de la Autónoma.