Course Syllabus

Course Number: AGRI 4920
Course Title: Internship in Ag Communications and Leadership
Credit Hours: 1 – 3 semester hours, S/U, can be repeated for elective credit
Prerequisites: Departmental Approval – students should have completed sufficient work in their respective track to optimize the learning experience
Co-requisites: None

Instructor: Dr. Don Mulvaney
Office: 102 Comer
Phone: 844-3200 (office)
Email: mulvadr@auburn.edu

2) Credit Hours: 1 – 3 hours of credit given as requested by the student and appropriate for the learning objectives within the internship. Each hour of credit requires 2 hours of work. (60 minutes per credit hour for 15 weeks or 900 minutes for one credit hour)

3) Textbook – generally, none required

4) Course Description: AGRI 4920. INTERNSHIP IN AG COMMUNICATIONS AND LEADERSHIP (1-3). Supervised, closely monitored work experience in ag communications or leadership.

The professional internship is a supervised, closely monitored work experience. Students gain practical work experience in their field of interest as they prepare for their career. Students should have an internship experience pre-arranged prior to enrolling.

5) Course Objectives: The general objective is to allow students an opportunity to utilize and apply knowledge and continue to learn and grow professionally in an industry setting. Students should strive to learn as much as they can about the industry represented by the internship and develop leadership and interpersonal skills essential for success in the workplace.

6) Course Content:

Students spend an entire semester away from their campus coursework engaged in work in industry. Content varies with the cooperating agency. Students usually are treated initially as an entry level employee in the particular area of interest identified by the student. After learning that area in depth, they should then progress through all other segments of the business so that they can see the bigger picture and how their special are of interest and skills aligns with the industry. The internship differs from the COOP in that students usually do not return to intern at the same company a second time.

General Outline:

Communication and leadership topics will vary based on the research interest of the student. Students spend variable amounts of time conducting research on the chosen project.
I. Organizational meeting to schedule assignments and discuss responsibilities.

II. Students begin projects. Students will consult with the professor every week at 8 am on Tuesday morning to discuss the progress of the assignments. Progress forms will be completed for each assignment and will be turned in at this time.

III. A summary of collective projects should be sent by email to the professor no later than 4:00 P.M. on the last day of classes for that semester.

IV. Evaluation: Written evaluations and suggestions will be completed by the faculty for the student to review. This is a learning experience and these comments are to help improve future experiences.

7) Course Requirements / Evaluation:

a. Requirements:
Students must make every reasonable effort to meet the educational expectations of the cooperating agency. They must maintain a daily log of activities and, from that, write a 20 page term paper on their internship experience. They should generate a collection of work artifacts to place in their portfolio.

b. Grading System:
Grading is a letter grade. Industry personnel overseeing the intern are asked to provide an evaluation of the student but assignment of the final grade is the sole responsibility of the faculty member overseeing the specific Internship experience. Before taking the class, students must interview the industry personnel that will supervise their experience and with the faculty member to construct a project outline. The student will be graded based on their portfolio which is built from work-related journal, clips, artifacts of work (50%), final 5 page paper and peer presentation (30%), book reports (10%) and final written evaluation from your internship employer (10%). Principle criteria for evaluation include content, rigor or the work and organization.

A: 90-100  B: 80-89  C: 70-79  D: 60-69  F: below 60

c. Journal and progress reports are due every other week and should have daily typewritten entries. Your work should be detailed in about one-half page or more as space is called for. Journal entries should include feedback from the supervisor. Please send items electronically to me at mulvadr@auburn.edu or first-class mail102 Comer Hall, Auburn, AL 36849.

In sending work, clips or artifacts, avoid orginals unless they are archived or expendable.

I will contact the supervisor throughout the semester to discuss progress and will provide feedback on your work and emerging portfolio.

Please include comments about the value of the courses and experiences you have had at Auburn University in the AGCO curriculum toward the internship.
d. Portfolio. This should be submitted before the last day of class for the semester in a 3-ring notebook or placed on a web page as this system becomes available. This should include your best examples of work from the internship.
e. After completion of the internship, please write a thank you note to the supervisor. They will appreciate this and be more willing to consider future students.
f. If your internship is only 10-11 weeks, you will have to read three books from a book list provided by me. If your internship is 12-14 weeks, you must read and report on two books. If you complete a full 15 week internship, you will have to read one book. We will work together on deadlines and format for reporting.

8) Course Policy Statements:

Class: Two to six hours of class work per week.

Late Submissions: It is the students’ responsibility to conduct their assignments as detailed in the project outline. Reports or assignments must be completed on time. Failure to submit final report and portfolio by final exam period, will result in penalty of 10 pts on the report-portfolio grade for each day it is late. If a serious situation arises and the student anticipates he/she will not be able to meet a deadline, it should be discussed with the professor before the due date.

9) Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:

Plagiarism is the act of presenting directly or indirectly someone else’s work as your own. Plagiarism is a major type of academic dishonesty and will not be tolerated. Similarly cheating on tests in any way, falsifying bibliographies, fraudulent quotes, and similar practices are intolerable forms of academic dishonesty. The University’s policy for academic misconduct in the Student Code of Conduct will be followed for this course (Tiger Club, pp. 83 and 92). Please contact the instructor for any questions regarding its contents.

10) Learners with Disabilities:

Auburn University is committed to providing accommodations and services to students with documented disabilities. Any learner with a qualified disability which requires accommodations should contact The Program for Students with Disabilities, 1244 Haley Center, Auburn University, AL 36849, 334-844-2096 PH, 334-844-2099 FAX, haynemd@auburn.edu. More information is available on their website at www.auburn.edu/disability. The office will fax or mail the required forms to learners to apply for services. Learners who have questions to participate in this course should contact the above office in advance to ensure proper accommodations.