SYLLABUS

Department of City and Regional Planning, Cornell University

Course: CRP 6900: Graduate Seminar
Location: Cornell in Rome
Semester: Spring 2015
Class Hours: 6:00-8:00 pm Tuesday
Instructor: Gregory O. Smith, D.Phil. (Oxon.)
Email: gos2@cornell.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

I. Rationale:

This seminar is designed to support academically the graduate internship, and provide a setting in which research relating to the internship can be structured. By the end of the semester students will have produced a polished academic text intended as a contribution to their exit project. The seminar also aims to stimulate research into the professional settings in which interns are involved. Selected readings on organizational theory are used to further this exploration. A final component of the seminar is the discussion of narrative used as a research tool to explore the workings of an organizational environment.

II. Course Aims and Objectives:

Aims

All students enrolled in the seminar will be engaged in an internship in an organization based in Rome. In order to establish the academic validity of the internship it is vital that students place the experience in a broader academic and professional context. This is the chief purpose of the seminar. The seminar also aims to support student efforts in developing sound research and writing skills. A major part of the seminar is devoted to discussing and critiquing ongoing research relating to some aspect of the internship.

III. Format and Procedures:

This is chiefly a seminar. Students are provided with background material for each session, which they are expected to assimilate before the relevant session. Attendance is required, as well as qualified participation which is only possible if students keep up with the readings, and actively engage in classroom discussion. Respect for standards of
scholarly debate is expected, as well as respect for the diversity of opinions expressed by the various course participants.

Most sessions will be divided into two distinct but complementary activities. One is the discussion of organizational features of the internship experience. Students are expected to take ideas from the readings and class discussion, and apply them to an analysis of the professional settings in which they are involved. The other activity concerns student research on a selected academic topic. During most sessions students will present written texts which accumulate into the final paper.

IV. My Assumptions

No specific disciplinary background is required to enroll in this course. It is expected that students will have a strong general academic background and solid academic skills. The capacity to pursue independent academic research is fundamental.

V. Course Requirements:

1. Class attendance and participation policy: Unexcused absences will result in a lowering of the grade. The participation component of the grade is awarded based on the student’s sustained contribution to classroom activities supported by the timely completion of the course readings.

2. Course readings:
   (a) Required texts:
       Barbara Czarniawska (2013) *Narratives in social science research.*
       London: Sage Publications
   (b) Other readings listed in the course schedule are available in electronic form through Blackboard.

3. Three credits

4. Additional requirements:
   No additional equipment is required for the course.

VI. Grading Procedures: Grades will be based on these elements:

Participation: 50%
Final paper: 50%
Over the duration of the semester students will produce a formal research document of about twenty to thirty pages. Clarity of exposition and a polished writing style are expected. Papers will all contain the appropriate scholarly devices in regard to citation and bibliography. In an early stage of the semester students will provide an outline of intended research and an annotated bibliography. Students will also be requested to present to the seminar a scholarly or professional article produced by an established professional figure. They will discuss in this setting the formal and stylistic features of the written piece.

This paper is due May 14.

The conversion for points to letter grade is as follows.

- A = 94 to 100
- B = 83 to 86
- C = 70 to 74
- A- = 90 to 93
- B- = 80 to 82
- D = 60 to 69
- B+ = 87 to 89
- C+ = 75 to 79
- F = 0 to 59

**VII. Academic Integrity**

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity. [http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/Academic/AIC.html](http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/Academic/AIC.html)

Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work, except in the cases of projects that are specifically structured as group endeavors.

You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts covered in lecture and the sections with other students. You can give "consulting" help to or receive "consulting" help from such students.

However, this permissible cooperation should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else, in the form of an email, an email attachment file, a diskette, or a hard copy.

Should copying occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will both automatically receive a zero for the assignment. Penalty for violation of this Code can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

**VIII. Accommodations for students with disabilities**

In compliance with the Cornell University policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for student with
disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with Student Disability Services to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.

IX. Tentative Course Schedule

Week 1: Jan 27
Introduction

Reading:
3. Czarniawska, Ch 1. The narrative turn in social studies.

Week 2: Feb 3
Discussion with Prof. Tom Campanella

Week 3: Feb 10
Northern Field Trip

Week 4: Feb 17
Approaches to organizational research. Students will discuss preliminary ideas for their research.

Reading:
2. Czarniawska, Ch 2. How stories are made.

Week 5: Feb 24
Mentoring. Students discuss mentoring relationships in their professional experience. They also present preliminary ideas for their research paper, with a brief written description of the questions they wish to pursue in this research.

Reading:
Week 6: Mar 3
*Professional writing.* Students select a professional or scholarly article for discussion in class. Stylistic and formal elements will be analyzed, along with contents and functional purpose. *Student research.* Students discuss research proposals. These will be in the form of a written document (400 words ca.) illustrating research questions to be pursued, and possible thesis statements. It will be accompanied by an annotated bibliography.

Week 7: Mar 10
*Organizational settings and technology.* Students describe in writing the mission and overall structure of their organizations, as well as the instruments available to pursue organizational aims.

Reading:

Week 8: Mar 17
SPRING BREAK

Week 9: Mar 24
*Individuals in the organization.* Students discuss organizational issues applied to their work activities. They present a 3-5 page fragment pertaining to one aspect of their research, reflection on the overall research paper design.

Reading:
1. Ch.4 “Learning” and Ch. 7 “Perception” in Andrzej Huczynski and David Buchanan.
2. Czarniawska, Ch 5. Reading narratives.

Week 10: Mar 31
*Groups in the organization.* Students discuss organizational issues applied to their work activities. They will also present a tentative outline of their research paper with written annotation for each section.

Reading:
1. Ch. 10 “Group structure” and Ch 12 “Team working” in Andrzej Huczynski and David Buchanan.

Week 11: Apr 7
Discussion with Prof. Mildred Warner
Week 12: Apr 14

Research progress. Students present extensive final drafts for selected sections of their paper (10 pp).

Reading:

Week 13: Apr 21

Organizational process. Students discuss organizational issues applied to their work activities. Students present extensive final drafts for selected sections of their paper (5 pp).

Reading:
1. Ch. 17 “Organizational development” and Ch. 20 “Human resource management” in Andrzej Huczynski and David Buchanan.
2. Czarniawska, Ch 8. Reading social science.

Week 14: Apr 28

Organizational theory. Students discuss organizational issues applied to their work activities. Students present extensive final drafts for selected sections of their paper (5 pp).

Reading:
1. Ch 21 “Leadership” and Ch 24 “Power and politics” in Andrzej Huczynski and David Buchanan.
2. Czarniawska, Ch 9. Writing social science.

Week 15: May 5

Final student presentations.

Reading: