**REL 3986: Part-time Internship with Practicum**

**Yale Divinity School 2017-2018**

**Practicum: Thursdays 4:00-5:30pm**

***Lucinda Huffaker, PhD, Director of the Office of Supervised Ministries***

***with Practicum Facilitators***

Part-time Internship with Practicum is a credit-bearing course that combines hands-on ministry experience (internship) with critical, theological reflection on the nature, practice and context of ministry (practicum).  It is taken for two consecutive semesters starting in September.

**Goals of the Part-time Internship with Practicum**

* To allow students to test directly their vocational commitments;
* To bring together theological thinking and action (theory and praxis);
* To enable students to gain personal confidence, identity, and authority as pastoral theologians;
* To broaden the base of empirical knowledge and to encourage students in their critical reflection;
* To stimulate the discovery and the lifelong cultivation of competencies requisite for ministry in varying situations;
* To provide a competent supervision process which will support personal and spiritual formation, critical reflection, shared ministry, and professional competence;
* To develop within students an ongoing self-assessment process, utilizing self-perceptions and feedback from others, for the purpose of stimulating further growth.

**Part-time Internship**

Through the internship a student gains firsthand experience--at least 370 hours--while serving in an approved **sites** under the supervision of a qualified **supervisor-mentor**.  The internship is guided by a **Learning Covenant** that the student creates in collaboration with the ministry supervisor-mentor.  In some cases where a theologically trained supervisor is not available at the internship site, a student may also be assigned a theological mentor to provide ongoing theological reflection.  The internship undergoes a collaborative assessment twice a year, once at the end of the first semester and once at the end of the year.  This collaborative assessment is guided by the Learning Covenant and includes the student’s written self-assessment as well as written observations from the supervisor-mentor (and theological mentor, if applicable).

**Practicum**

Practicum supports critical, theological reflection on the nature, practice and context of ministry as experienced in the internship. Practicum takes place in a collaborative learning community of 8-10 student peers and is facilitated by a qualified ministry practitioner.

2017-18 Practicum Facilitators

* Katie Byrnes, Assistant Chaplain, Fairfield University S-117
* Alison Cunningham, Executive Director, Columbus House S-101
* Rev. William Mathis, J.D., Pastor, Springs of Life-Giving Water

Baptist Church; Director, Black Church Studies at YDS S-104

* Rev. Shepard Parsons, Pastor, First Church of Christ, Woodbridge S-202
* Kyle Pedersen, Episcopal Deacon; Director, Connecticut Mental Health Center Foundation S-212
* Rev. Tracy Johnson Russell, Rector, St. Monica’s Episcopal Church, Hartford S-223

Facilitators use a variety learning modalities to engage peer reflection and encourage individual and shared learning. Students remain in their group and with the same facilitator for the entire course. In this setting, they gain the experience of collegial support and feedback from their peers while building a foundation for lifelong learning in ministry.

Practicum focuses on the following core areas:

* Theological Reflection
* Ministry Identity
* Vocational Calling and Discernment
* Professional Competencies
* Context and Culture of Ministry
* Lifelong Learning

**Learning Objectives of Practicum**

* Participate in a learning community that supports and enhances your professional development and preparation for ministry.
* Discover and discuss elements of ministry in a variety of settings and contexts.
* Develop self-awareness by giving and receiving feedback on personal experiences in ministry.
* Become a “reflective practitioner” by practicing theological reflection on your experiences and behavior using the theological frameworks you are developing at YDS.
* Introduce an approach to educational ministry, grounded in theological action and reflection that students can offer future communities they will serve.

**Attendance Policy and Credit**

REL 3986/7 is graded Credit/No Credit and receives three credits each semester. Completion of both semesters is required before credit is granted for supervised ministry. According to YDS faculty standards, work must be at the level of HP- or better to earn a grade of Credit for the course. Credit in the course is determined by:

* **No more than two (2) Practicum absences each semester**. If a student misses more than two (2) Practicum sessions in either semester, that student must drop the course and will not receive credit for the supervised ministry. In an effort to model professional practice, students are expected to communicate about *any*absence in advance to their group.
* Contribution to Practicum;
* On-time completion of all practicum assignments;
* On-time submission of required self-assessments and reports;
* Completion of the expected hours and tasks at the internship location, as agreed upon with the site supervisor(s), reported on time sheets, and described in the supervisor's End-of-Year Report.

SCHEDULE

**Aug 31 PLENARY - INTRODUCTION TO PRACTICUM**

**Sept 7 Focus: Group Covenant**

Explore and articulate values and practices that will inspire and support our work together.

**Sept 14 Focus: Learning Covenants**

How am I directing my learning? How will I use the Learning Covenant in the internship, practicum and personal reflection?

Preparation: Review Learning Covenant and Complete Learning Goal worksheet

**Sept 21 Focus: Personal Identity**

Exploring the faith stories that have brought us to this point in our lives and see how our stories connect with or relate to the stories of others in the group.

Preparation: Complete Faith Time Lines exercise

**Sept 28 Focus: Personal Identity**

Biographical statements – practice self-presentation

Who am I and how do I describe myself to others?

Preparation: Read and complete Personal Asset Starter, by Luther Snow

**Oct 5 Focus: Site Identity**

Sharing from Ministry Context exercise.

Preparation: Complete Ministry Context exercise

**Oct 9 Timesheet Due**

**Oct 12 Focus: Site Identity, continued**

Sharing from Ministry Context exercise.

**Oct 19 CONVOCATION-NO PRACTICUM**

**Oct 26 Focus: Peer Learning Community**

Explore and identify what we want to learn together.

Preparation: Selected reading(s) on peer learning

**Nov 2 Focus: Introduction to case study**

 What are case studies and how can we learn from them?

 Preparation: None

**Nov 9 Focus: Case studies (to be selected)**

 Preparation: None

**Nov 16 PLENARY - FACULTY PANEL DOING CASE STUDIES**

**Nov 23 THANKSGIVING**

**Nov 30 LAST PRACTICUM**

 Focus: Semester review.

 Preparation: Ministry in Six Words

**Dec 15 Supervisor and Student Reflections due; timesheet due**

**SEMESTER END**

**2ND SEMESTER**

**Jan 18 PLENARY - BRIDGING FAITH TRADITIONS**

**Jan 25 Focus: Learning Covenants**

Review and discuss Learning Covenants. Identify personal goals for the remainder of the internship.

Preparation: None

**Feb 1 Focus: student ministry presentation**

Preparation: Writing assignment TBD (e.g. public prayer, book review, newsletter article, bulletin announcement)

Feb 8 Focus: student ministry presentation

Feb 15 READING PERIOD - NO PRACTICUM

Feb 22 Focus: student ministry presentation

Mar 1 PLENARY – bystander intervention

Mar 8 Focus: student ministry presentation

Mar 9 Timesheet due

Mar 15 SPRING BREAK - NO PRACTICUM

Mar 22 SPRING BREAK - NO PRACTICUM

Mar 29 MAUNDY THURSDAY - NO PRACTICUM

Apr 5 Focus: Open Session

Apr 12 Focus: Open Session

Apr 19 Focus: end of year review

Apr 26 LAST PRACTICUM – CELEBRATION

Apr 30 Self-Reflection due

May 7 Senior Supervisor Reflections due; timesheet due

May 16 Supervisor Reflections due; timesheet due