Communication Practicum

Fall 2016
Copenhagen

3 Credits

Major Disciplines: Communication, Media Studies, Journalism, Marketing, Rhetoric

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Tuesdays 13.15-14.35, Location TBA

Course Description
What is it like to work with communication in Denmark? This practicum is a unique chance to build your resume and gain hands-on experience in the field of communication. You will become part of a professional workplace in Copenhagen and get a rare chance to apply your knowledge and skills, while engage in an extraordinary learning experience.

This course is a site-specific practicum combined with a seminar forum. In short, it is a chance for you to combine time spent in class with time at your designated company. You meet periodically with your DIS faculty and peers to reflect on your practicum and compare the different experiences and companies. Our seminars include supervision and is a safe space for continuous critical reflection through theoretically informed discussions that build on your professional experience and your hands-on experience. The seminars enable you to analyze and explore the current Danish communication field and put your own work experience into a broader perspective.

The practicum is framed by an individual reflective journal that you create and maintain during the practicum. The aim is to develop your professional communication skills, enhance critical thinking and give you a cross-cultural learning experience in a professional Danish work environment.
Course Faculty: Dorte Mari Aggergaard
M.A. in Modern Culture and Communication (The University of Copenhagen), BA in Educational Studies and Art History (The University of Copenhagen, Roskilde University and University of Leeds, UK).
Dorte Mari Aggergaard has been a visiting research scholar at Brown University and her work experience include the Safer Internet Programme under the European Commission, the Media Council for Children and Young People in Denmark, The University of Copenhagen, Roskilde University, start-ups, consultant work for EU projects and being a member of an advisory board network.

Guest lectures and field studies can include
• Newspapers and media providers, including broadcasting companies
• Journalists, bloggers and editors
• Digital and media agencies

Learning Objectives
• To gain professional experience
• To gain hands-on insight into the professional communication culture in Denmark
• To reflect upon practice as compared to academic learning
• To test skills and methods learned in academia in a professional environment
• To prepare you for an effective transition to practice in the future
• To compare working cultures and practices of Denmark to that of the US

Note
• You practicum times take place outside of your DIS course schedule
• The total amount of practicum hours for the semester is forty hours (10 x 4 hours)
• You meet with your DIS faculty eight times during the semester

Course Readings
Relevant supplementary reading materials are uploaded onto Blackboard (forum.dis.dk).

Journal
You will maintain a journal that documents and analyzes your work experience. Journals are reviewed during the semester by your instructor. The purpose is for you to reflect and summarize your practicum experiences through writing both open-ended and directed analytical reflections. Every visit to your company is followed by a reflection in your journal with your key takeaways, observations, ideas, suggestions or perhaps something you found puzzling, surprising or gave you new perspectives and insights.

Expectations of the Students
The first time you meet with your practicum site, you and the site will agree on your working times for the semester. You are expected to work for the company at the times you have agreed upon and to conduct yourself in a professional manner at all times. You should see yourself as a representative of both of DIS and your home institution and behave accordingly. The journal is actively maintained throughout the semester and you should be well prepared for each discussion group and participate actively.
Evaluation and Grading
Grades are based on the following:
• 25% Participation and engagement
• 25% Journal
• 20% Article about the practicum site including interviews with colleagues (3 pages)
• 30% Final reflection paper (4 pages - 25%) and an outline (1 page - 5%)

**To be eligible for a passing grade in this class you must complete all of the assigned work**

Teaching methods
This course will be taught using a combination of methods. There will be a strong emphasis on participation and discussion. While your instructor is responsible for the overall structure of the class, all of us will contribute to the production of knowledge. Your engagement will play an important role, and you will be encouraged to reflect actively on the practicum experience.

Overall, the aim is to create a classroom space characterized by respect and willingness to listen/consider other’s perspectives, where it is safe to explore ideas together and individually, even if they are not fully conceptualized or thought out. This requires a great amount of trust, as well as the willingness and curiosity to consider each other’s arguments.

IMPORTANT - General Notes Regarding Assignments
Papers must be correctly formatted and referenced. At DIS, one page equals 300 words. Papers not adhering to these guidelines will result in point deductions.

You are expected to use correct citing formats (either APA or MLA) on all assignments. See http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/ for guidelines concerning the two different citing formats.

Useful websites/ info
http://www.dis.dk/study-abroad-students/library/database/ (DIS library database of journals)

Practicalities
Attendance
You are expected to attend all DIS classes when scheduled. All classes, evening events and field studies are mandatory unless marked otherwise in the course plan. If you miss multiple classes, the Director of Academic Support and the Director of Student Affairs will be notified and they will follow up with you to make sure that all is well. Absences and tardiness for class will jeopardize your grade and your standing at DIS. Allowances will be made in cases of illness. However, in the case of multiple absences, you will need to provide a doctor’s note.

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Academic Honesty: Plagiarism and Violating the Rules of an Assignment
DIS expects that you abide by the highest standards of intellectual honesty in all academic work. DIS assumes that you do your own work and credit all work and thought taken from others. Academic dishonesty will result in a final course grade of “F” and can result in dismissal. Your home universities will be notified. DIS reserves the right to request that written assignments to be turned in electronically for submission to plagiarism detection software. See the Academic Handbook for more information, or ask your instructor if you have questions.

Late papers
It is essential for your learning to stay on track with readings and assignments. All work must be completed in order to pass the course. All late assignments will be deducted half a letter grade for each 24 hours they are late.
Course Plan - discussion sessions and supervision

*Schedule is subject to change.*

1. Introduction
   *Introduction to the course, practicum sites and to Danish work culture*
   - Reading: http://www.fastcoexist.com/3029110/5-simple-office-policies-that-make-danish-workers-way-more-happy-than-americans

2. First impressions from the sites
   *Your learning experience - a journey of participation and growth*
   Reading + TedTalk:
   - TedTalk: https://www.ted.com/talks/ken_robinson_how_to_escape_education_s_death_valley

3. Company Culture
   *How do you experience the culture at your company?*
   Reading:

4. Get to know your colleagues (part 1)
   *Interview guide workshop*
   Readings:

5. Get to know your colleagues (part 2)
   *We will work with your findings in preparation for your article assignment*

6. Cultural differences DK vs. the US
   *Your key takeaways and reflections*
   Reading:
7. Communication Practices as opposed to Academic Study
   We examine your observed characteristics of practices at your site and relate the findings and discussions to your outline for your final reflection paper.

8. Final class
   We evaluate the course, your practicum experience, and talk about how you can transfer this experience towards your future dreams and goals.