Winter Study Specials

SPEC, short for Specials, are courses with topics that are outside our academic department areas of study OR are being sponsored by the Winter Study Committee.

SPEC 99 (W) Independent Study: Special
Open to upperclass students. Students interested in doing an independent project (99) during Winter Study must make prior arrangements with a faculty sponsor. The student and professor then complete the independent study proposal form available online. The deadline is typically in late September. Proposals are reviewed by the pertinent department and the Winter Study Committee. Students will be notified if their proposal is approved prior to the Winter Study registration period.

Class Format: independent study
Grading: pass/fail only
Not offered current academic year

Winter Study ---------------------------------------------

SPEC 19 (W) Healthcare Internships
Experience of a clinical environment is essential to making the decision to enter the health professions. Through this internship, students clarify their understanding of the rewards and challenges that accompany the practice of medicine (human and animal) and dentistry. Generally, a shadowing experience focuses on provider-patient interactions within out-patient and in-patient settings. These experiences provide students with the opportunity to observe clinical interactions, as well as to learn about the systems within which healthcare is delivered. Students will be introduced to fundamental concepts related to patient interviewing and history taking, diagnosis and medical decision making. Students will also be introduced to core concepts of population health, providing a broad perspective on health outcomes within a geographic region and expanding their perspective on the individual clinical interactions which they observe. This course will encourage participants to reflect on their clinical experiences with a dual focus- from the perspective of the individual provider-patient relationship and within a systems-level context. Didactic sessions for (on-campus students) will focus on the challenges and experiences of healthcare professionals in the Berkshires or nationally. Students will be introduced to concepts of health and wellness, epigenetics, and environmental influences that have a demonstrable, sustained impact on individuals before and after clinical symptoms of illness emerge. By the end of the course, students will demonstrate greater understanding of the fundamentals of patient-provider interactions, clinical diagnosis, patient interviewing, and factors affecting the health of individuals and communities.

Requirements/Evaluation: 10-page paper
Prerequisites: not open to first-years
Enrollment Preferences: grade level and potential as applicant to professional programs
Grading: pass/fail only
Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses
Not offered current academic year

SPEC 21 (W) Experience in the Workplace; an Internship with Williams Alumni/Parents
Field experience is a critical component of the decision to enter a profession. Through these field placements, students can clarify their understanding of the rewards and challenges that accompany the practice of many different aspects within a profession, and understand the psychology of the workplace. In order to participate in this course, students must apply to the winter study internships listed in this syllabus. The expectation is that each student will observe and participate in some aspect of the profession for at least 30 hours per week, 6 hours per day for 5 days each week. It is also expected that the instructor will assign a specific project to be completed within the 3-4 week duration of the course depending upon appropriateness. Participation in this winter study will require the student to quickly assess the work environment, make inferences about corporate culture, performance norms and expectations, and to take initiative not only to learn from this experience, but also to contribute where and when appropriate. Understanding the dynamics within a work environment is critical to success in any organization, and this hands-on experience will illuminate lessons learned in the classroom. Upon completion of the winter study, it is expected that the student write a thorough report evaluating and interpreting the experience.
Teaching Associates: Williams College Alumni/Parents will be recruited to become teaching associates for this course. A broad range of professions will be represented as the course develops. Alumni and parents will receive individual orientations with the course instructor in person or via telephone conference. Students will be required to read one of two books selected for this course. Bibliography: a bibliography of readings would be selected from such works as: *What Should I do with My Life?* by Po Bronson, 2003; *Working* by Studs Terkel, 2004.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** it is expected that students will complete assigned readings (read one of two books assigned to this course), write a daily journal, and write a 5- to 7-page expository review; evaluation will become public record as a resource for other students

**Prerequisites:** interested students must attend an information meeting in late September or early October and follow up with Dawn Dellea if students have questions about specific WS internships listed in the SPEC 21 syllabus; application are submitted via Handshake

**Enrollment Preferences:** 1st priority--students applying for winter study internships listed in the SPEC 21 syllabus; 2nd priority--students developing independent Internships with Williams alumni/parents; first-years limited to applying for local internships

**Grading:** pass/fail only

**Materials/Lab Fee:** cost of books

**Attributes:** EXPE Experiential Education Courses

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**SPEC 24 (W) Class of 1959 Teach NYC Urban Education Program**

Students in this course learn about the front-line challenges of urban public education by working in one of New York City's public schools. Participants will be expected to pursue a full day's program of observing, teaching, tutoring and mentoring in their choice of more than 20 different school situations from elementary through high school. Each of the participating schools will have a resident supervisor who will meet with the January interns to arrange individual schedules and provide mentoring during the month. There will be weekly seminar meetings of all the interns who are expected to participate in group discussions, keep a journal and write a 5 page paper reflecting upon their experience. The course will conduct orientation meetings with students prior to January, matching each student's interest with appropriate teaching subject areas and a host school. Dormitory-style housing will be provided along with some assistance with transportation and food costs—estimated at $400 for the term. Further assistance is available for financial aid students. Adjunct Instructor Bio: Tracy Finnegan is a master's level teacher with training and teaching experience in a variety of approaches and settings.

**Class Format:** wsp internship

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Evaluation will be based on a journal and a 5-page paper

**Prerequisites:** prerequisites: Sophomore, Junior or Senior standing; not open to first-year students

**Enrollment Limit:** 12

**Enrollment Preferences:** statement of interest

**Grading:** pass/fail only

**Materials/Lab Fee:** $400

**Attributes:** EXPE Experiential Education Courses

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*Not offered current academic year*