

PECO 5905 – Reflective Practice in Work and Labour

Course Information and Requirements

Course Description (0.5 credit)

PECO 5905 is a key element in the scaffolded approach to experiential learning and reflective practice in the Graduate Diploma in Work and Labour. The course is designed to support students already engaged professionally in organizations relevant to issues of Work & Labour, providing students an opportunity to develop skills and habits of reflective practice and to apply theoretical tools from coursework to their observations and experiences in their workplace. The aim is to provide such students the space to explore and investigate the challenges they encounter in their work – whether dilemmas of strategy, tactics, or communications, conflicting priorities, skill or knowledge gaps, or other issues affecting the advancement of workers' power, broadly conceived.

Course Supervision:

The course will be supervised by the Academic Supervisor from the list of cross-appointed faculty on the Institute of Political Economy (IPE) website. Students will work with the Academic Supervisor early in the term to map out assignment timelines, identify key questions for reflective practice, and develop research questions for the final assignment. Students will be required to meet with the Academic Supervisor to check in at least once before mid-term, but may meet more regularly if desired. Depending on course enrollments and scheduling constraints, the academic Supervisor may facilitate a group check-in for all students enrolled in a given semester.

The academic Supervisor will evaluate the students' written portfolio, which will be assessed as SAT/UNSAT. Student portfolios may be used by the Supervisory Board to evaluate the learning outcomes of the program. No on-site supervisor is expected or required for completion of the course, and students' written work will not be shared with their workplace (unless the student chooses to share it on their own.)

Before enrolling in PECO 5905, you will need to have an informal discussion with either the Institute Administrator to make sure this option is right for you. Once you are approved to enroll, you will meet with your Academic Supervisor to set out assignment timelines and fill out the form below, with learning objectives and assignment topics.

Learning Activities & Assessment

PECO 5905 builds on the models and examples of experiential learning and reflective practice introduced in PECO 5002. Students will apply these theories and practices for structured reflection as they carry out their work, with the goal of enriching work practices and helping to advance organizational objectives.

The student will be required to complete the following learning activities for the Reflective Practice in Work and Labour. The due dates for these assignments will be determined by the Academic Supervisor. The topics must be approved by the Academic Supervisor in advance.

A. Three Reflective Practice Question (RPQ) papers of 5-7 pages in length. Each will have a different focus on:

1. An issue relevant to the student's experience in their workplace connected to a topic explored in course material from a **core** course in Work & Labour.
2. An issue relevant to the student's experience in their workplace connected to a topic explored in course material from an **elective** course in Work & Labour.
3. An issue of special personal and/or professional interest related to the student's experience in their workplace.

Reflective Practice Question papers should:

- Identify, describe, and explain the issue or debate undergirding your focus question, and explain why it merits investigation and reflection
- Draw connections between students' observations and experiences in the workplace and relevant course materials
- Identify and elaborate key insights, conclusions, or further questions arising from students' reflective practice

B. Research Paper/Report

A research paper or written report (20-25 pages) that analyzes a current policy, process or event associated with their organization's work.

This paper should:

- Briefly situate the policy, process, or event at issue in relation to their organization – its objectives, structure, work culture, modes and areas of intervention, etc.
- Briefly situate their organization within the broader socio-political context, including questions of funding/donors, ideological environment, and the broader ecosystem of organizations or other actors in which the organization is embedded
- Explain why this policy, process, or event is of interest, and what questions arise that merit reflection and investigation
- Draw from relevant theories and course readings to address the question(s) arising above
- Reflect on the student's own work practices, problem-solving efforts, and professional observations in their workplace to describe and address the question or dilemma identified above

C. Professional Biographical Statement & Resume

- Briefly describe your current position, responsibilities, and professional priorities – this will help your academic supervisor get to know you and how best to support you and your goals for reflective practice
- Attach a current resume (work and educational history, etc.)

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Term and Year:						
Student Name:						
Email:						
Phone:						
Organization:						
Work Supervisor:						
Phone:						
Email:						
Address:						
	City		Prov		Postal Code	
Academic Supervisor:						
Email:						
Phone:						

Anticipated Assignment(s) & Due Date(s):

Assignment	Due Date

Student Learning Goals & Anticipated Skill Development:

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Method of Assessment:

Student Signature

Academic Supervisor Signature