

# HISTORY 195CE STUDENT INTERVIEW

By: Rayna Jackson

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*Deepeeka Dhaliwal, a 3<sup>rd</sup> year History major, has been has had an interest in history ever since high school. While the first two years at UCLA, Deepeeka studied Biology and pre-med, she realized that her passion was and always will be History. With a return to what makes her happy, Deepeeka is now a part of [History Corps](#) and an intern at the [Museum of Social Justice](#). With Deepeeka's new academic focus on combining history and community engagement, she's happy doing what she loves.*

## **What drew you to working at the Museum of Social Justice?**

The fact that it's so broad and not focused on any specific area of social justice. I could do what I wanted with whatever project I decided to pursue. I feel like you get a little taste of everything there, you are not really confined to one specific area.

## **What project are you currently working on?**

I'm at the museum full time, where I am a docent; giving tours for visitors. In addition to that, I help curate the new exhibit which is called, "EXODUS". Its focus is on immigration during 2000-2006 across the U.S./Mexico border. We are trying to recreate the desert and what the crossers leave behind. I help pick out pictures, captions and try to connect with professionals on the field that do research on immigration.

Interns are not getting coffee and making copies. For example, we went to Cal State Northridge and worked with archive pictures. We had to wear gloves -it was every history major's dream. Doing all the research, talking to the photographer who took the pictures and the whole process of how to navigate efficiently through archives was one of the most memorable experiences I have had.

## **So has doing an internship been beneficial?**

The internship has been very beneficial and it's really helped me since I switched my major pretty late. It has helped me figure out what I want to do after college, which is the best part. Now, I know I love research! It has exposed me to education in a new way as well. I was very set on being a high school teacher before this internship class. With this opportunity, I realize there is a non-traditional academic side to History. While I still want to become a teacher, I can educate people about history in different ways and also help the community solve social issues. It is just a new twist on history that I would have never expected.

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## **You've gained a new passion for research, what other else have you learned from this experience?**

[I've learned to] break out of my shell and talk to people about my ideas and their ideas. I didn't realized that such a small museum had such huge connections in the Los Angeles community and so making connections with all different kinds of people has been another skill I've learned.

## **How has the History 195CE Internship Course given insight to your internship?**

History 195CE's, readings and weekly reflection papers have a bunch of different historic perspectives and ways to work with history. I knew nothing about the actual discipline of history before I started this course, so it has helped me fine tune my thinking and find new ways of thinking about things, which I then apply to my internship. Also, the discussions with Carrie, the History 195CE Coordinator, are very helpful. She really makes us reflect on what we are doing and about the actual practice of history which a lot of people don't do.

## **How has the internship helped you learn how to engage with the community?**

Being at the museum has helped me realize that you can take history and use it to engage the community, just as much as a doctor, engineer or a lawyer. There aren't many people who are willing to put time and effort into research, events and projects that try to help solve issues in the community. So, this has helped introduce me to a new way of thinking about history and using it as a tool to help people.

## **What would you say to students who haven't yet heard of this internship opportunity?**

I would say it can definitely benefit anyone with any type of major, because social justice applies to everyone and there is a bunch of different internship site you can choose from and even within your internship site there are many things you can choose from, you can be a tour guide, work with archives, world history and even like public relations and set up a website or do a brochure for your organization. So there is something that can benefit anyone no matter if you are a science major, history major, English major, anything.

## **Do you have any advice for students who are looking for good internship experience?**

Definitely! There are all these opportunities that a lot of students don't know about. Talk to your department and look outside your department because there might be something out there that you would have never thought would apply to. [Having an internship] can really benefit you in the long run.

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**195CE Internship Courses** are part of the [Center for Community Learning](#). For more information on how to enroll, please visit the Center's [website](#).