Service Learning 100:
Introduction to Service Learning

Course Description
SERVICE—RECIROCITY-- REFLECTION

Welcome to Service Learning 100 at Los Angeles Harbor College. Service Learning is a unique opportunity for you as a student to get hands-on experience in a real-world setting that will complement and enhance the coursework you are learning in another of your current classes, referred to as your sending course. Not only will this volunteer experience benefit you as a learner but your service also helps meet the real needs of the surrounding community. In this course you will complete volunteer work within your community and then answer a series of questions (units 3-10 in the Service Learning Guidebook) regarding your volunteer experience that is turned in as a final paper, or Final Reflection paper.

There are three main tenets of Service Learning: Service, Reciprocity, and Reflection.

1. **Service** is just that; the time you spend volunteering at the site or project of your choice.
2. **Reciprocity** is the mutual benefit or aid that is shared by you and the community served; whereby you the student gain experience and credit and the agency/project/community served benefits through your participation.
3. **Reflection** is what sets Service Learning apart from typical community service projects. Reflection is the active review of your service; how it benefits you as a learner and the recipients of your service, and how it relates to your sending course content.

It is my goal that through Service Learning you will meet all ten of the listed Student Learning Outcomes and in addition you will begin to develop your own volunteerism and find how continued service to others can enrich your life and the lives of others more than just this one semester.

The purpose of Service Learning is to enhance critical thinking and problem-solving skills, to give greater relevancy to the relationship between classroom theory and practical application in the real world, and to encourage the development of collaborations that benefit the community.

Step 1: You will choose a project site or agency. Examples of Service Learning sites include (but are not limited to): local adult day centers for Psychology 41 students, Habitat for Humanity for Architecture students, special needs elementary classrooms for CD students, campus and community Health Fairs for nursing students. A list of recommended sites is available to you, posted in the Resources tab of the online Etudes site; any other service site needs to be pre-approved by me, your

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instructor.

Step 2: You will complete ten hours of service at your chosen site.

Step 3: You will complete the Final Reflection. Throughout each of these steps you must also participate in online discussion forums as well as turn in corresponding paperwork.

The course offers one unit of transferable credit, credit/no-credit (pass/fail).

Course Requirements

This class requires 10 hours of volunteer time at a local non-profit organization of your choosing, as well as participation in the online discussion forums and completion of the required forms and units (11 total) found in the Service Learning Guidebook. This course is self-paced (see Dates and Deadlines). A good rule of thumb is to log in to the Etudes online site daily to begin with and plan to log in at least once a week or more after the first deadline.

The Service Learning Guidebook (J. Thomas-Spiegel & S. McMurray, 2007) is the only required reading, other than the Etudes modules, for SL100. Your sending instructor may assign additional readings through your sending class. You can download the Service Learning Guidebook as a .pdf file from the Resources tab of the Etudes site, from the Service Learning webpage http://www.lahc.edu/classes/socialscience/servicelearning/servicelearning.html or contact the instructor.

The course objectives are based on the assumption that you will read the entire Service Learning Guidebook; it is the main guide and tool for you and will help you begin to think about how your service in the community augments your learning in your sending course.

Other requirements for the course include the following: basic computer skills (word processing, internet, e-mail, file mgmt), basic internet connection and skills (use of browser, searches, uploading and downloading files), familiarity with discussion boards, and most importantly, an open mind and willingness to try new things.

Resources

For help in logging into the online course on etudes, go to the LAHC webpage http://www.lahc.edu/harboronline.html. If this is your first online course or your first time using Etudes, give yourself extra time in the beginning to learn to navigate the site.

Students requiring accommodations should contact the instructor as soon as possible or the Office of Special Programs & Services (DSPS) at 310-233-4629 or go to http://www.lahc.edu/studentservices/sps/index.html.

Dates & Deadlines

Service Learning 100 is a self-paced class in which you will complete requirements for another course while at the same time completing the requirements for Service Learning. Beware of what “self-paced” means! It means assignment deadlines are posted and you should make every effort to turn in and complete assignments by these due dates. The due dates set in the syllabus are here to help ensure you complete everything on time but it is your responsibility to plan ahead and schedule your volunteer work.

GRADING POLICY

The Service Learning 100 course is credit/no-credit.

You will receive 1 unit of credit when the following is met:

✓ Completion of the minimum 10 hours of volunteer service;

✓ Receipt of a satisfactory evaluation from the agency at which you volunteer;

✓ Participation in the online discussion forums as required.

✓ Completion of Final Reflection (final paper answering units 3-10 from the SL Guidebook).

* Credit will only be given if the 4 criteria listed above are met.

* All discussion posts / assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. on the due date.

* No materials or hours will be accepted after May 31, 2014.

This course follows all LAHC policies as described in the college catalog (http://www.lahc.edu/classes/schedules.html).
hours accordingly. This course is designed to enhance your learning in another course, so waiting until the last minute will only cause more stress for you; you can always complete assignments before the due date with no penalty. In addition, there are six modules within Etudes that, along with the Service Learning Guidebook, will help to guide you through your Service Learning project. As such, it is recommended that you take the time to read through each module prior to beginning your project and revisit individual sections as needed throughout the semester.

**REFER TO THE ETUDES MODULES FOR COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS**

**July 11**: Discussion 1 post in Etudes due. *One week before each assignment deadline, there is a discussion due. This will help you stay on track to complete the course on time. If you do not login to Etudes and post Discussion 1or contact me by this due date, you will be automatically excluded from the class (September 9 is the last day to drop a class without a ‘W’).* Corresponing Modules 1 and 2.

**July 18**: Assignment 1 due: Read the Service Learning Student Guidebook in its entirety. Complete and submit the preliminary forms (Orientation form, Assumption of Risk, Placement form) from the SL Guidebook. *Once you have completed those forms, you may begin volunteering at the agency you have chosen. It is very important you turn in your forms PRIOR to commencing your volunteer hours; for reasons of liability I, as your instructor, need your written consent to participate off-campus and I need to know where you are going. You are not required to turn in a copy of your TB test results – your results are for the agency at which you plan to volunteer. You will turn in the Placement Form after completing your initial hours/orientation at the agency – this form can be turned in separately.* Corresponding Modules 1 and 2.

**August 1**: Discussion 2 post in Etudes due. *Corresponding Module 3.*

**August 15**: Assignment 2 due: You should complete your 10 hours of service by this date and have a signed evaluation form from your agency supervisor. *Any delays must be reported ahead of time to the instructor with an explanation and plan for catching up.* Corresponding Module 3.

**August 15**: Discussion 3 post in Etudes due. *Corresponding Modules 4, 5, and 6.*

**August 23**: Assignment 3 due: Turn in the final forms from the Service Learning Guidebook (signed Timesheet, signed Agency Evaluation, Feedback form) as well as the Final Reflection. *Your Final Reflection must be typed and must answer all questions from Units 3-10 thoroughly in essay format using complete sentences. A sample is provided in Etudes posted in the Resources tab. The forms and Final Reflection can be submitted electronically via Etudes or email, or in-person through the campus mail, attention M. LANGE. Corresponding Modules 4, 5, and 6.*

Remember, these dates are here to help keep you on track and to coincide with due dates of your sending instructors. If for any reason you find you are not able to comply with these deadlines, you MUST contact me and we will work on a schedule that fits your needs. DO NOT wait until the last minute to choose an agency or to start your hours, as you will not finish in time.

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**Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)**

By the end of this course you will be able to:

1. Identify and demonstrate examples of civic responsibility
2. Create a reflection related to the SL course component and SL settings
3. Evaluate realistic scenarios requiring decision-making
4. Use ethical decision making in conflicting scenarios in the SL setting
5. Demonstrate observation skills
6. Report insight into your own behavior and that of others
7. Examine your role and effectiveness in the community
8. Evaluate personal biases and strengths in diverse settings
9. Summarize and synthesize the semester’s experiences
10. You will also be able to evaluate the SL as it relates to your accompanying academic or vocational course. You, the student, must maintain records, write journals, and complete the assignments in the required workbook.
FAQs

Q. Do I have to use the Etudes online classroom platform?
   A. Yes. The Service Learning course is an online course, where all but your time volunteering will be spent.

Q. How do I know what my choices are for agencies?
   A. A list of current agencies is provided in the resources tab on http://myetudes.org.

Q. Can I choose an agency that is not on the Agency List?
   A. Yes. However, all such requests must be pre-approved by the SL Instructor.

Q. If I know where the agency is located, can't I just show up?
   A. No. Agencies require that you call ahead and set a time to come for your orientation.

Q. What if I live far away from the agencies on the list?
   A. Other arrangements can be made on an individual basis. You must have approval before you use an outside agency.

Q. I am really busy. What if I run out of time to do the service? Can I still earn credit?
   A. Unfortunately, you must complete a minimum of 10 hours to earn the one unit of credit. This is one reason you should plan ahead and begin your service earlier in the semester. (See dates & deadlines)

MOST OF YOUR QUESTIONS will be answered by going through the guidebook & online modules in order and completing the assignments. For any other questions, you may always ask your Service Learning instructor.