CIEE Global Institute - Buenos Aires

Course name: Service-Learning Project  
Course number: (GI) SVCL 3701 BAAR  
Programs offering course: Open Campus Buenos Aires  
Open Campus Track: All Tracks  
Language of instruction: English  
U.S. semester credits: 3  
Contact hours: 15 Class Hours, 120 Service Hours  
Term: Fall 2018

Course Description

This course is designed to expose students to the successes, challenges and opportunities that exist in the community through service-learning and volunteer projects.

The Service-Learning Project combines a practical community-based project with a CIEE Seminar and is designed to challenge students to combine their course-based learning with practical experiences in relevant community-based projects. The project consists of a new project (or an extension of an existing project) that meets the demonstrated need of a local community organization. Students are required to develop a diagnostic plan and to produce a full project proposal that will be reviewed for approval by a service-learning committee by the end of the previous academic block of study. The project will include a community needs-assessment, data collection, and final presentation. Students will work in local organizations for a total of 100-120 contact hours. The service-learning seminar covers the core service-learning principles of engagement, reflection, reciprocity, and public dissemination.
Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Understand how to interact with community members in culturally appropriate ways.
- Enhance communication skills through dialogue with community members and institutional partners.
- Acquire real-life, practical project management skills.
- Develop empathy for community issues and inhabitants.
- Enhance their critical understanding of community engagement and partnerships.
- Observe the outputs and impacts of community programs and projects.
- Understand the deeper context of issues through community learning.

Methods of Instruction

This course is designed to challenge students to bridge and draw upon the knowledge they have obtained through coursework and practical experiences. 15 hours of seminar will lay the foundation for critical thought on civic responsibility and community partnership and the role of the self within the community. Experiential learning allows students to build upon that foundation, and within the volunteer organizations students will identify a need, design and complete a full project proposal for approval. Each student will complete 120 service hours.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Class Participation 20%
2. Weekly Online Discussion-Board Entries and Field Observations 10%
3. Final Project Presentation 20%
4. Final Research Paper 30%
5. Field Supervisor Evaluation 20%
**Course Requirements**

**Weekly Online Discussion-Board Entries and Field Observations**
Students are expected to critically reflect upon their experience. Guided by weekly assigned topics, students will discuss as a group their observations, challenges and reflections on their service within the community.

**Final Project Presentation**
Each student will present their project in a 15-minute final presentation. This presentation will highlight the objective of the project / program, the challenges, strengths, outcomes and suggestions for improvement. Members of the community will attend the event to provide feedback and support.

**Final Research Paper**
The final research paper will give a critical analysis of student experiences in the field. Within the paper, students will give a clearly defined assessment of community needs and assets upon which the project is based; an explanation of how the project benefits the community in question; a critical review of the relevant literature or embedded knowledge that supports, informs, and pertains to your project; and an appropriate and clearly described methodology.

For practical-based projects, a detailed explanation of the project planning and design should be given, and the findings and their implications should be discussed clearly and unambiguously. Furthermore, the paper should give a description of the extent to which the project has been accomplished and sustainability measures have been implemented. Any results that may have emerged already from the project should be discussed. Organisation and presentation of the report are also graded.

**Field Supervisor Evaluation**
At the end of the project, supervisors will give an evaluation of students’ professionalism, conduct, input and participation within their respective service sites.
Participation

Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all unexcused absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for Open Campus and Short Term programs, unexcused absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent. Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to Internship, Service Learning, or required field placement. Students who miss class for personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent and unexcused. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.
Unexcused absences will lead to the following penalties:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Total Course Hours Missed</th>
<th>Equivalent Number of Open Campus Semester classes</th>
<th>Minimum Penalty</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 10%</td>
<td>1 content classes, or up to 2 language classes</td>
<td>Participation graded as per class requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 – 20%</td>
<td>2 content classes, or 3-4 language classes</td>
<td>Participation graded as per class requirements; written warning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 20%</td>
<td>3 content classes, or 5 language classes</td>
<td>Automatic course failure, and possible expulsion</td>
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Weekly Schedule

NOTE: this schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to take advantage of current experiential learning opportunities.

Week 1 Introduction
- Service learning and civic responsibility
- Expectations in Argentina: What do we understand for solidary service-learning in Latin America?
- The importance of observation
- Community projects introduction
- Meet your field supervisor

Week 2
The Politics of Community and How It Affects Service Learning / What is Volunteering in the 21st Century in Argentina?
- Social / action research including field note taking
- Human subjects: understanding and applying ethical principles
- Quantitative and qualitative research
- Proposals for projects

Week 3 Elements of a Community
What is a community? What is the specific situation of communities in Buenos Aires?

Intercultural communication
Proposal presentations
Feedback from students

**Week 4 Forms of Service**
- Consideration and collaboration in the community
- Interview: meet local community decision makers and discuss programs in place
- Oral presentation skills workshop

**Week 5 Local Community Organization Initiatives**
- Power of the community
- Role of the community on the national interest

**Week 6 Final Presentations**
- Panel Discussion

**Readings**

Dunlap & Webster (2009). Enhancing Intercultural Competence through Civic Engagement


**Online Resources**

Ashoka

Campus Compact

International Partnership for Service-Learning and Leadership

Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning