Service Learning

COURSE INFORMATION
SW | 1-3 credits | 400 level | 15-45 contact hours

Instructor: Alice Boateng

TEXTBOOKS & COURSE MATERIALS

DESCRIPTION
Service learning combines community service with academic instruction, focusing on critical, reflective thinking and personal and civic responsibility. Service learning programs involve students in activities that address community-identified needs, while developing their academic skills and commitment to their community.

OBJECTIVES AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
- To provide students realistic information about social scenario and social problems in Ghana along with first hand practical exposure to the society and social problems
- Develop social responsibility among students
- Student will become more aware of the needs of others while participating in service activities.
- Student will develop valuable skills by serving in the community

REQUIREMENTS
- Prior reading on service learning and study topics below are suggested. Prior reading is suggested to develop a general overview among the students about the topic; reading online books and journals about the suggested topics. Specific materials for the study will be made available to the students on arrival.
- Students will stay overnight in a village. While all efforts will be made to place them in a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) to have more exposure to the culture, students will bear expenses for food and transport.

OUTLINE
Schedule of classes and study materials will be provided to students on their arrival to University of Ghana.

Module 1
The Nature of Social Work
This will be an introduction to the practice of social work as a profession in Ghana, and around the world. The role of social workers in meeting social welfare and developmental needs, the international federation of social workers, ethics of social work, practice and principles and standards of social work, values, orientation and focus of social work.

Class duration 2 hours
Module 2

**Working with People living with HIV/AIDS**
This module will discuss basic facts about HIV/AIDS; the psychological and social impact of HIV/AIDS; the service needs of people living with HIV/AIDS; children affected by HIV/AIDS and gender roles and poverty relations to HIV/AIDS. In addition, factors such as cultural taboos against discussion of sexual practices, widespread poverty and malnutrition, and others will be discussed.

Class duration 2 hours

Module 3

**Deviance and Correctional Services in Ghana**
This module will discuss the Social Work processes in corrections in Ghana. It will also look at the existing and needed delivery systems for rehabilitation services. The sociological and psychological factors in causation and treatment of delinquent children; how communities reorganized to help troubled youth and to prevent inceptions and spread of juvenile problems.

Class duration 2 hours

Module 4

**Poverty and challenges faced by children**
This module focuses on various challenges faced by children from economically weak background. This covers topics like physical and psychological challenges, child labor, child abuse and various NGO and government interventions in this field.

Class duration 2 hours

Module 5

**Women and Children’s Rights and Protection**
The focus of this module is on the institutions, public and private and programs that provide services for the prevention of abuse of women and children and for ameliorating the effects of abuse of women and children. Students will discuss the scope and dimension of the problems of the abuse of women and children, the institutions, programs and services for the protection and promotion of women and children’s rights.

Class duration 2 hours

**Field work hours**
For the field work, students will be transported to an overnight location for their Service Learning experience.

A Service Learning Agreement will be required for each Module. Please complete the form (below) and have it signed by your supervisor.

Total class hours (Theory): 10 hours
Field exposure: 24-48 hours a week (3 days a week) for the 1-2 credits
**RESEARCH PAPER**
From the above-mentioned study topics of service learning students will select a specific topic and conduct a research. More guidance for the research will be given to the students during their classroom sessions. This will be the class assignment for the course.

**RESEARCH PRESENTATION**
Presentation will be based on the research paper. Each student can share their research findings and views with other students. Ghanaian students, faculty and staff will attend this from University of Ghana, which will provide students a cross-cultural view on different social issues.

**JOURNAL OF THE FIELDWORK**
Students will keep records of journal entries of their activities at the fieldwork. This will be a detailed record of activities carried out each day, (i.e. their expectations, reflections, observations, concerns, questions, revelation among others) to the social issues that they observe and to other educational experiences. Content of journal will be assessed for grading by the professor or supervisor.

**ASSESSMENT**
The final grade will be determined based on the overall performance and achievements. The breakdown of the final grade is as follows:

- Class Participation: 10%
- Class assignment (Research paper): 30%
- Class Presentation: 10%
- Field Work Hours: 50%

**Grade Scale:**
- A: 100-93
- A –: 92-90
- B+: 89-87
- B: 86-83
- B –: 82-80
- C+: 79-77
- C: 76-73
- C –: 72-70
- D+: 69-67
- D: 66-63
- D –: 62-60
- F: 59-0

Grades are issued on (+) and (-) system.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY**
All USAC Policies regarding Academic Honesty will be followed in this class. If you have questions regarding these policies, please contact the instructor or consult the university’s pamphlet entitled, “Policies and Procedures on Academic Honesty” (http://www.unr.edu/stsv/acdispol.html)
DISABILITY POLICY
Every effort will be made to accommodate students with disabilities or special learning needs. If you have a documented disability for which you have already requested accommodations through the USAC Central office, your instructor will have been notified so that arrangements can be made early in the term.

STATEMENT ON AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDING
Surreptitious or covert video-taping of class or unauthorized audio recording of class is prohibited by law and by Board of Regents policy. This class may be videotaped or audio recorded only with the written permission of the instructor. In order to accommodate students with disabilities, some students may have been given permission to record class lectures and discussions. Therefore, students should understand that their comments during class may be recorded.
### SERVICE LEARNING AGREEMENT

Module #_____ Topic ____________________________________________________________

I ________________________ certify that the information on this form is true and correct. It is an accurate account of hours I completed while participating in the field requirement and understand that deliberate misrepresentation or withholding of information may result in a failing grade for this course.

_________________________________ Student Signature

__________________________ Date

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