

AMERICAN STUDIES 398: Service Learning in America
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Fall 2006, Graham Memorial 212

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

AMST 398 explores the history and theory of volunteerism and service learning in America. Requirements for the course include an academic seminar and significant placement in a service learning project. Students produce POWERPOINTS from their specific internship, service placement, or service-learning research. They will be supplemented by visual and audio documentation as relevant. Additionally students are required to keep a digital diary of their internship experience and respond to specific prompts in electronic discussion forums on a bi-weekly basis throughout the term. Two required out-of-class event assignments (or alternate reading substitutes) are required due to seminar cancellation for Fall Break and the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Opportunities include Dianne Ravitch (No Child Left Behind), Martin Eakes (Race and Wealth in America), James Moeser (The State of the University Address) and Studs Terkel (Will the Circle Be Unbroken).

SERVICE REQUIREMENT:

The service placement for AMST 398 is for approximately 70-100 hours during the semester, or roughly 8 hours per week for 12 weeks. Transportation time to your placement can count towards the hours. A few students have been pre-approved to complete their service during summer 2006 (and will come to class no later than 3 pm), although the majority will be expected to complete their service at a placement relevant to their academic and personal interests during the fall semester and fully participate in the 2 – 4.30 Wednesday seminar. Alternatively, students can participate in a series of short-term service opportunities, alternative fall break, or do research on service learning as part of an academic curriculum in higher education. Each student will meet with Prof. Willis, design and sign a contract, to supplement their service learning no later than Oct. 25.

APPLES:

We will use APPLES contracts and evaluation documents where appropriate. These can be found at <http://www.unc.edu/apples/> along with numerous other service-learning resources.

PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLARS:

This course counts as a requirement for the Public Service Scholar graduation distinction. More information on the requirements and a list of potential placements can be found on the Carolina Center for Public Service (CPS) website at <http://www.unc.edu/cps/scholars/> and http://www.unc.edu/cps/getinvolved/a_to_z/index.html. I encourage you to also consult the "blue pages" of regional phone books for alternative SL placement opportunities. Note: summer service hour logs are due NO LATER THAN SEPT. 1 to CPS and fall enrollment for PS Scholars ends on Sept. 8. Info at: http://www.unc.edu/cps/scholars/enroll_open.html

Course Grades

SERVICE or SERVICE LEARNING RESEARCH PROJECT– 40%

- Supervisor evaluation, e-journal, discussion board postings on service

SEMINAR – 20%

- Quality participation, discussion board postings on assignments

COMMUNICATION – 20%

- Presentation, service powerpoint, email and BB usage

FINAL EXAMINATION – 20%

- Books and public service reflections from the course. Information on readings on calendar and in BB.

Communication, Office Hours, and Course Materials

It is a student responsibility to have regular access to the internet, email, and BLACKBOARD for communication and assignments. Please use email for time-sensitive communications only; do not send assignments in email or as attachments to email messages. Thank you for your full cooperation.

Current office hours will be posted in BB. Generally I am available only to AMST 398 students in the hour before class. I can be found in the 1st floor lounge of Graham Memorial. Additional times are posted in BB. Phone and in-person appointments can be made via email to both Willis and Fann. Please use an appropriate subject message that indicates you are in AMST 398 and a brief summary of your request. (e.g. AMST 398 APPT. REQUEST or AMST 398 PLACEMENT PROBLEM so that spam filters do not trap your message and I can respond to it quickly. Plan to recheck your email shortly after making an appointment request and take the time to confirm the time and place.

See the course BLACKBOARD WEB SITE for current office hours and calendar, course documents (contracts, evaluations), discussion board prompts (on readings and placements), the digital drop box (placement journal and drafts of any web or presentation content), and any announcements. It can be found at <http://blackboard.unc.edu/> and requires your onyen and password to access. Plan on actively using BB three times a week (for e-journal and text submissions, discussion board posting, and to access course documents and updates). A MWF schedule is strongly suggested. Also check and respond to any course email daily during the week.

Be sure that you are properly registered in BLACKBOARD to receive messages and access course materials no later than Friday, August 25. You should receive a test message after class on Wednesday, August 23 and post a first discussion board and test digital drop box by Friday, August 25. If you do NOT receive the message, please notify Prof. Willis by e-mail ASAP (no later than Aug. 25 noon) with your ONYEN, email address, and current contact information so that you can be properly added. If you using a non-UNC address, it is your responsibility to make sure that you are not "over quota." Check the BB announcements if you suspect you have a problem as messages will not be resent. Note that it will also be difficult for your placement contacts to reach you during the term if your email box is full.

Attendance and Participation Policy:

I expect you to attend all class sessions. I expect you to have completed all readings and assignments prior to class. I also expect you to come to class on time and stay for the entire class. Much of the learning in AMST 398 is interactive and depends on your full participation and interaction with your classmates through BB and in person!

If you must miss class, you are required to notify me as soon as possible, preferably prior to the absence. Missed class sessions result in a choice of two options:

- (1) 5 % deduction from your total course grade for each absence OR
- (2) satisfactory completion of a make-up assignment that excuses the absence.

Generally assignments will take the form of an essay or project based on the learning objectives and readings for each class session missed.

Honor Code

The UNC-CH Honor Code is in effect in this course. The following statements explain expectations for meeting these standards. If you have any questions about these matters, please talk with me. The Instrument for Student Judicial Governance requires that you sign a pledge on all written work. ("On my honor I have neither given or received unauthorized aid on this assignment."). This includes all assignments, electronic posts, web materials, and exams. The first time you hand in an assignment digitally, please write the pledge in full. After that, you may simply write "Pledge" and sign your name. Please take the time and review the full text of the student judicial governance site.

Calendar for AMERICAN STUDIES 398: Service Learning in America, Fall 2006, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Dr. Rachel A. Willis, Revised 10-11-06

DATE	2-2.50 pm (Fall SL only)	3-4.30 pm (All students)	DEADLINES/reading
AUG. 23	Introduction to service-learning placements for fall service students.	Introduction to seminar, texts & the meaning of service (CPS exercise)	Practice Discussion Board (DB) and Digital Drop Box (DDB) by Friday, Aug. 25, noon. Fall SL Placement request form due Monday, August 28 (w/short resume of experience) OR summer service reports filed to BB digital drop box. Read and post quotes from <u>Twenty Years at Hull House</u> .
AUG. 30	Placement Interviews & Contracts	Intro to texts & discussion of Jane Addams, Top 10 SL UNC placements.	Placement interviews begin; all work should begin no later than Sept. 11. Begin weekly digital journal entries for fall service, All summer service journals due Sept. 11 to BB
SEPT. 6	Placement Advice: Communication, Courtesy, Confidentiality	Chancellor James Moeser, State of the University Address	Placement contracts due Sept. 8. Begin posting discussion board forums on placements. DB – 1 First impressions.
SEPT. 7 or 8 SEPT. 8 pm	THURSDAY OR FRIDAY NIGHT PERFORMANCE of "Will the Circle Be Unbroken" at UNC Memorial Hall, 8 pm, Alternate assignment (read and review Terkel book) http://www.carolinaperformingarts.org/performances/event.aspx?id=e8708133-b0e0-4b51-99fb-c40defb70b67). Discussion board posting by Sept. 12.		
SEPT. 13	Leslie Perkins, APPLES, Asst. Dir. - SL at Carolina	Julie Fann – GRC Professional Communication	Read and post quotes from <u>Savage Inequalities</u>
SEPT. 20	Placement Characteristics: Supervisors and Clients	View portion of Children In America's Schools & Discussion of Jonathan Kozol	CALL NO. 65-v6054 VHS
SEPT. 20 7.30 pm	Frank Porter Graham Lecture: Wed. Sept. 20, 7:30 pm, Memorial Hall, free "The Past and Future of No Child Left Behind" with Diane Ravitch or Alternate assignment review of linked readings at: http://www.johnstoncenter.unc.edu/events/fpg_0607.htm Discussion board posting no later Sept. 27		
SEPT. 27	Taking the Initiative in your placement and your education.	Julie Fann – Disc. board and journal entry writing	DB – 3 Fall service placements sign up for short updates.
OCT. 4	SL Progress Updates – I	Discussion of Tracy Kidder FLEX DATE FOR	Read and post quotes from <u>Mountains Beyond Mountains</u>

		ADJUSTMENT	
OCT. 11	SL Progress Updates - II		DB - 4 Finalize selection on 5 th book no later than Oct. 11.
OCT. 18	NO CLASS	FALL BREAK	Post discussion of Fadiman or Branch or approved option by 10/25
OCT. 25	Products of service learning	Summer service summaries – Scarborough and Neptune	Read and post quotes from BB readings on SL
NOV. 1	Documentation of results and placements	Discussion of SL in Higher Education and SL at UNC, APPLES video	DB – 5
NOV. 8	Lessons on problem-solving	Julie Fann – Web Content Editing	Drafts of web content to Julie Fann by Nov. 10
NOV. 15	Implications for future work		DB – 6, Post web page template with name and contact information
NOV. 22	NO CLASS	THANKSGIVING BREAK	Read and post quotes from <u>The Call of Service</u>
NOV. 29	Ending SL Placements Professionally	Discussion of Jonathan Kozol, Preparing for Community Presentations	DB -7 on SL Lessons Final text of power point and web content due to Julie Fann and Rachel Willis by Dec. 1, Complete electronic journals due no later than Dec. 4.
DEC. 6	STUDENT PRESENTATIONS ON SERVICE LEARNING PLACEMENTS – ppt and web page introduction. Campus and community partners invited.		DB – 8 on class SL placements. Website and presentation evaluations due to digital drop box no later than Dec. 8
DEC. 14	THURSDAY NOON – 3 PM	FINAL EXAM -	You may use up to five quotes cards per book. Max size is 4x6 inches. BRING LAPTOP and Ethernet cord if wireless is not working.

As circumstances require, the course calendar may be updated during the semester. The latest version can be found at <http://blackboard.unc.edu> for AMERICAN STUDIES 398 under COURSE INFORMATION.