Field Work in Leadership Studies (LDRS 310)

Course Summary - This interdisciplinary course is designed to provide the student with an awareness and understanding of current issues relating to the nature and tasks of collaborative leadership behavior. The student is asked to identify an issue or problem and practice leadership by developing and implementing a community project.

Course Goals (Content, Conceptual, Civic)
- Engage in a collaborative project involving the implementation and practice of civic leadership in the student’s local community, putting into practice the principles of leadership.
- Increase understanding of leadership theories and concepts.
- Develop an ability to work in teams.
- Explore personal values with respect to leadership and service.
- Articulate understanding of community service and service-learning.
- Utilize community service as an introduction to service, civic responsibility, and leadership.
- Reflect on service-learning experiences.
- Discuss critical issues of diversity, social justice, community, and civic responsibility with leadership and service.
- Develop a personal philosophy of service and leadership through critical analysis of social issues, reflection, and practice.
- Be encouraged to be life-long learners and advocates for social change.

Course Assignments – All assignments are explained in the attached syllabus (Syllabus is listed below)
- Service-Learning Paper
- Change Project Issue Overview Paper
- Strategic Plan:
  - Strategic Plan Paper
  - Strategic Plan Presentation
- Reflection Journal Entries
- Progress Report
- Moral Courage Assignment and Reflection
- Final Project:
  - Strategic Plan/Report
  - Presentation
  - Overall Project Effectiveness
- Personal Reflection Paper
- Team Evaluation

Course Assessment
Students in this course select their project teams around a project based in their communities across the world. One of the first major assignments in all sections of the course is to create a strategic change plan.
that addresses the change project which students will then coordinate and execute throughout the semester. Course assessment takes place through both individual and team assignments and in-class reflection activities which are listed above. For the online sections, the reflection occurs through the course management discussion boards. An in-house developed workbook, Discovering the Leader Within, is utilized for guided reflection.

Principles of Civic Leadership – LDRS 640 (Syllabus is listed below)

Course Summary - This course is designed to provide the student with a deeper understanding of the major components and principles of civic leadership. Classroom activities examine the leadership process in the context of community and society. This approach encourages ordinary citizens to take responsibility, organize, and build coalitions to make social change.

Our democracy has a long history of citizen activism for the purpose of addressing social injustices. Civic leadership is about how people join to act on their common interests and address social conditions. The craft of civic leadership and community organizing is about identifying key social issues, recruiting and building coalitions, developing leadership, implementing strategies and tactics, and engaging in action to win campaigns and alter the political and social landscape.

Course Goals

• Students will identify the basic concepts of community organizing and leadership in the context of community.
• Students will understand the major elements of bringing about change in the community.
• Students will apply their knowledge of community organizing and apply it to their lives.
• Students will be able to differentiate between civic leadership and other forms of leadership.
• Students will be able to critically analyze social movements.
• Students will recognize that they part of a larger system that requires them to engage.
• Students will develop and apply skills related to civic leadership.

Selected Course Assignments

• Community Organizing Analysis Proposal
• Community Organizing Final Paper

Course Assessment

This course is designed to teach students the leadership processes needed to make change in the context of community and society. Throughout the course, students learn these processes, and are assessed through exams and written work on their understanding of the processes, but also have the opportunity to select a community/civic issue and work through the semester to incorporate their learning into an actual community organizing project proposal. This synthesis exercise assists students to not only identify social and community issues, but also be involved in planning a proposal for a grassroots, NGO and/or non-profit change.