

Psychology in the Community PSYC 328
Spring 2006
One Credit

Instructor:

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Program Support:

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The Service-Learning Partners program allows you to interact with clients or work as support staff in community service organizations that address issues, topics and themes you are learning about in psychology. Through this educational and service-oriented curriculum, you apply the information learned in your courses to practical, real-life situations. You will work with community organizations to seek solutions to community problems. All correspondence can be directed to the above contacts. Dr. Michael Hurley will handle grading and most other issues. Heather Hare is the contact regarding logistical issues concerning your service-learning site.

Resources

Service-learning information, including forms, the service-learning handbook, and the service-learning partners list, can be accessed through CSL's webpage, www.gmu.edu/student/csl. The service-learning handbook is **required** reading. It includes basic information on service-learning, provides tips on finding a community learning site and contains a worksheet on writing learning objectives.

Requirements *All late submissions will be penalized.*

1) Attend the orientation session on **Thursday, January 26**, and complete a minimum of **45 hours of direct community service** at your placement site. Commute time is NOT included in the service hours. You are responsible for finding a community-learning site. If you do not have a site as of yet, please contact Michael Hurley or Heather Hare. On-site work should begin **no later than January 30** and should continue through, **no later than May 5, 2006**.

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2) **Post and respond to five discussion questions** on the class WebCT bulletin board. This site is up and available for posting. Please utilize your GMU email stem (e.g., mhurley2 for Michael Hurley) as your ID and the last four digits of your Student ID as your password. This should be the case for all of you. Every student should respond to each question thoughtfully and substantially. Additionally, students should provide a relevant comment to **at least one other student's response**. Please see the course's WebCT bulletin board for further information. If you have not used WebCT before, please contact STAR (Student Technology Assistance and Resource Center), 229 Johnson Center, (703) 993-8990 for assistance.

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3) Complete and return a copy of the **Service-Learning Contract** (after you and the community service supervisor have signed it) to Heather Hare in at the Center for Service & Leadership in ENT 442 (MS 2F3) **NO LATER THAN January 30**. All students who fail to submit the service-learning contract by January 31 may be asked to drop the course unless they have discussed the delay with Dr. Hurley and have received a deadline extension.

4) Record your service hours and tasks/projects by keeping an ongoing **log** throughout the time you are on-site. The log should note your observations during each on-site visit; tasks should relate to your overall learning objectives (i.e., if your learning objectives stress working with children, ensure your tasks reflect this). Writing "Feb. 1- volunteered" is not enough! The log is included with your final project and should be typed. The log is included and graded with your final project.

5) Submit two typed **personal reflection papers** using the questions that follow (see "Class Schedule and Assignments" at the end of this document) to focus and structure your thoughts. A minimum of 1.5 pages at 12-point font (double-spaced) per entry is expected. This is separate from the log. Writing reflection papers is one way to forge a link between service and your learning process. It is your opportunity to examine your motivations, monitor your personal growth and clarify your values, as well as an opportunity to explore some of the underlying causes of the issues and themes you are addressing in class. Reflection papers are not merely logs of the events that you experience, but your response to those events. The format should include the question and question number, your name and course number. The reflection papers will be discussed at the two reflection sessions during the semester (see below). Entries can be emailed to Dr. Hurley at mhurley2@gmu.edu; alternatively, you may submit a printed copy to Dr. Hurley's box in the David King Hall mailroom.

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6) Attend all 3 **reflection sessions** with Dr. Hurley and Heather Hare during the semester. These sessions - which fall on **Thursday, February 23; Thursday, March 23; and Thursday, April 27** - provide an opportunity to discuss your work at your community learning setting, and to learn about what your colleagues in this course are doing.

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7) Your community service supervisor will submit a **written evaluation** at the end of the semester, which discusses your overall performance of assigned tasks.

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8) Submit a **final project** (in a two-pocket folder) that includes:

- Brochures and information about the organization, if available.
- Completed Log.
- Completed Time Sheet.
- Letter from community learning site supervisor verifying hours. Letter should be on official organization letterhead.
- A 3 to 5 page typed essay that integrates your learning at the community learning setting with your psychology coursework, as well as discusses whether/how your experience enabled you to meet the learning goals that you set forth in your service learning agreement at the beginning of the semester.

Final projects are due **May 5, 2006** by 3:00 pm in Dr. Hurley's office in David King Hall (DK 2086). You are encouraged to review your log of tasks/projects and journals to serve as a reference for your final project.

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Class Schedule and Assignments:

January 26

Orientation Session @ 12:00 noon in ENT 175

January 30 Deadline for submission of service learning agreement to Heather Hare
AND Deadline for beginning your hours at your community site.

February 6 WebCT Posts for question #1 due by midnight

February 17 Reflection Paper #1 due by 5pm.
Describe your responsibilities at your community learning site. How do these responsibilities assist you in meeting the learning objectives you have set for this course

February 23

Reflection Session #1 @ 12:00 noon in ENT 175

February 27 WebCT Posts for question #2 due by midnight
Submit for approval (via e-mail to Dr. Hurley or in Dr. Hurley's mailbox) the APA reference for the article you have selected for reflection paper #2.

March 10 Reflection Paper #2 due by 5pm.
Locate and read an academic journal article (NOT a textbook chapter) that discusses the psychology specialization/topic that you are addressing through your service. Would the author have a different point of view by serving at your community learning site? With what do you agree? With what do you disagree?

March 20 WebCT Posts for question #3 due by midnight

March 23

Reflection Session #2 @ 12:00 noon in ENT 175

April 10 WebCT Posts for question #4 due by midnight

April 24 WebCT Posts for question #5 due by midnight

April 27

Reflection Session #3 @ 12:00 noon in ENT 175

May 5 Final Project due by 3:00 p.m.
Required number of service hours: 45