HDEV 116: Practicum in Leadership and Community Development  
Spring 2015

From what we get, we can make a living; what we give, however, makes a life.  
--variously attributed

I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy. 
-- Rabindranath Tagore

The best way of find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.  
--Ghandi

Service to others is the rent we pay for living.  
---Marian Wright Edelman

Course Overview:  Welcome to a non-traditional course, where the emphasis is on learning by doing, and success is measured not by grades, but by your level of engagement. This two-credit course will deepen your understanding of greater Binghamton while simultaneously increasing your involvement in public service. You will learn about the history of greater Binghamton, its challenges at this point in time, and its visions for the future. Following the service-learning motto “experience enhances understanding; understanding leads to more effective action,” you will work and learn outside of the classroom in public-service organizations within the city itself. Through guest presentations, StrengthsQuest self-study, TED talks, and class discussions you will explore and deepen your understanding of the inter-related concepts of “leadership” and “service.” This course is P/F. It has no traditional papers, and no exams. So I will look to your journals and to your final Power Point presentation and to your capstone essay (more about them below) as important representations, analysis, and self-assessments of what you’ve done and what you’ve learned. This course is limited to returning students who live in Hinman College who have not completed HDEV 106.

This is a designated Community Engaged Learning (CEL) course: a credit-bearing academic course in which students are involved in a community setting such that the experience is linked to course content, enriches learning, and benefits the community in some way.

Course Objectives:  
--increase your knowledge of the history and character of the greater Binghamton community  
--explore opportunities for public service and civic engagement in the Binghamton community  
--discover the essential, dynamic interrelationship of service and leadership  
--provide opportunities and methods for reflection  
--deepen your commitment to social justice and community service  
--clarify your personal values with respect to leadership and service  
--support the development of service and leadership as distinctive themes of Hinman College  
--strengthen the foundation for your ongoing involvement in service and leadership activities throughout your years at Binghamton University and beyond

Course Leaders:  
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Course Expectations and Requirements

- **Get involved** in the course. Be pro-active.
- Do **email** regularly; check Blackboard daily. Think of the Blackboard web-site for our course as its communications hub. There you will always find the latest, most reliable word about all facets of the course.
- **Come to class** each week for workshops, field trips, info sessions, and/or discussions of issues and topics relating to community service and leadership, led by Al and Lisbeth and/or BU professional staff and/or community leaders. Some readings and exercises from websites as basis for discussions. More than two unexcused absences can adversely affect your grade.
- **Occasional writing assignments.** Specifics to follow.
- **A minimum of 15 hours of service over the course of the semester in a community organization or activity, logged on the ALIVE Points website:** http://cchan33.wix.com/alive-points-program#!/volunteer-hours/cbms. This Practicum emphasizes community-based, off-campus service. Early in the semester we’ll challenge you to identify the issues or activities you’re interested in, to research various community organizations and activities that relate to those interests, and then to develop those interests in volunteer service within a community agency or organization.
- **Weekly Journal.** Every week, write a journal entry in which you reflect on your assignments and/or your insights and activities and engagements with the community in this Practicum. Date each entry. Write a journal entry after each time you go to volunteer with an organization or agency, but your journal should not be limited to those occasions. Make this journal a weekly, cumulative record of all aspects of your experience in this Practicum. Put the emphasis on reflection and analysis, not simply on facts and narrative. Hard copy due each week as you come to class.
- Completion of a self-study of personal abilities and interests, using the on-line STRENGTHSQUEST program, with follow-up self-study activities. Cost: $10 for access code and access to interpretive materials, payable to Al, who will coordinate with STENGSQUEST administrators.
- **Capstone oral presentation and final reflective journal entry** about your experiences and personal growth during the semester (details to come)

Outline or Overview of the Semester (subject to change)

Unit One: jump-starting your engagement with the Binghamton community (weeks 1-4)
  1) Engaging downtown Binghamton @ First Friday on February 6
  2) Exploring greater Binghamton in the media
  3) Identifying opportunities for public service in greater Binghamton

Unit Two: enlarging your vision of the greater Binghamton community (weeks 5-9)
  1) High points of Binghamton history: videos of Binghamton as Parlor City, Johnson, Link, Watson; field trip to Technology museum; field trip to Binghamton History Center at Roberson
  2) Binghamton’s ethnic/social/cultural tapestry: field trips to Ukrainian church, Rescue Mission, etc.

Unit Three: challenges in developing the Binghamton community (weeks 10-14)
  1) Presentations and field trips on current challenges: economic, demographic, cultural.
  2) Presentations and field trips on opportunities and strategies going forward
  3) Presentation by Prof. David Campbell from MPA program: “Public Service as mission/Public Service as career”
**Schedule of Class Sessions (subject to change)**

Week 1 (January 28).  Introduction to course.  Getting to know each other. Diagnostic questionnaire about community engagement.  Discuss plans for going as group to First Friday (Feb 6, 6:00-9:00) in downtown Binghamton.  Video on “everyday leadership.”  Leadership video: “Anonymous Extraodinaries” ([http://www.ted.com/talks/natalie_warne_being_young_and_making_an_impact](http://www.ted.com/talks/natalie_warne_being_young_and_making_an_impact))  Class visit to Center for Civic Engagement on campus.  Assignment for next time: Assignment #1 on Blackboard.

Week 2 (February 4).  In class: processing Assignment #1.  Small group and one-on-one discussions of opportunities for community service, with consultants Allison Alden and Christie Zwahlen (from CCE) present as resources.  Forming service teams.  The “etiquette” of community service; learning to “dance” with a community partner (presentation by Christie Zwahlen).  Video Drew Dudley, “How to Recognize Leadership.”  and “everyday leadership” ([http://www.ted.com/talks/drew_dudley_everyday_leadership](http://www.ted.com/talks/drew_dudley_everyday_leadership))  Assignment for next time: Assignment #2 on Blackboard.

Week 3 (February 11).  In class: processing Assignment #2.  Introduction of StrengthsQuest.  Bring $10 to class for StrengthsQuest access code.  Video of Binghamton history:  “Binghamton:  Building the Parlor City.”  Assignment: service in the organization/agency you’ve chosen.  Assignment for next time: Assignment #3 on Blackboard.

Week 4 (February 18).  In class: field trip to Binghamton Visitor Center, and Roberson Museum and Science Center.  Assignment: service in the organization/agency you’ve chosen.  Don’t forget to journal.

Week 5 (February 25).  Bring $10 to class for Strengths Quest.  Updates from the class about their service activities.  Presentations by Katie Blaine from Center for Employment Opportunity.  Video on George F. Johnson.  Assignments: go on-line and do the Strengths Quest questionnaire; service in the organization/agency you’ve chosen.  Don’t forget to journal.


Week 7 (March 11):  field trip to Ukrainian Sacred Heart church.  Assignment: service in the organization/agency you’ve chosen.  Don’t forget to journal.

Week 8 (March 18):  Presentation by Merrit Hartblay from Broome County Addiction Center.  Video of Thomas Watson.  Assignment: service in the organization/agency you’ve chosen.  Don’t forget to journal.

Week 9 (March 25):  Field trip to Center of Technology and Innovation.  Assignment: service in the organization/agency you’ve chosen.  Don’t forget to journal.

Week 10 (April 1):  Presentation on homelessness by Vicki Colazzo, Binghamton Rescue Mission.  Assignment: service in the organization/agency you’ve chosen.  Don’t forget to journal.

Week 11 (April 8):  spring break

Week 12 (April 15):  field trip to Binghamton Rescue Mission; make dinner for the residents.  Assignment: service in the organization/agency you’ve chosen.  Don’t forget to journal.

Week 13:  (April 22):  Workshop on journaling, with Eric Howd from CLT .  intro to Capstone activity.  Assignment: service in the organization/agency you’ve chosen.  Don’t forget to journal.
Week 14 (April 29): first half of class presentations on your service site. Assignment: service in the organization you’ve chosen. Don’t forget to journal.

Week 15 (May 6): remaining class presentations on your service site. Capstone essays due.