Service-Learning Program for the Arcadia Group
University of Cape Town, South Africa
6 credits
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CAPE SLCD 310S: A Critical Understanding of Community Development

This course will provide students with an experiential, reflective and service-oriented introduction to post-apartheid community development processes in South Africa, using the Western Cape as a case study. The course will combine a series of core seminars with daily community service in Khayelitsha near Cape Town, regular service-learning reflection sessions, and a group task aimed at creating an asset map to be presented to the community of Khayelitsha.

The central aim of the course is to provide students with an understanding of the ‘potentialities of the city’, building on the notion of community assets, particularly with regards to ‘the community’s’ ability to present competent and complex responses to their own problems. This requires exploring the different avenues for power in Cape Town (local government, failures of local government, a call to understand the ‘micro-spaces of everyday engagement’ and an example of a study which introduces racial, class and social justice issues with regards to housing), as well as the social challenges that communities in Cape Town face and their responses to these challenges.

Course Objectives:

The course will enable students to:

1. Develop a critical understanding of conceptual issues around development, poverty, and power.

2. Develop a critical understanding of theories and practices of development in the context of post-apartheid South Africa.

3. Develop an ability to engage with diverse, often marginalized communities in pursuing development strategies.

4. Gain an opportunity to provide meaningful service to communities as part of a service-learning process, and learn a number of practical skills for this process.
Course Structure:

1. Core seminars
10am-12pm daily, Monday to Thursday, for 4 weeks
Instructors: Dr Elsa van Huyssteen and Mr Tristan Gorgens

2. Service-learning component
This component of the course consists of three parts: community service, reflection on the service experience, and developing an asset map of the community.

2a. Community service
2pm-5pm daily, Monday to Thursday

2b. Reflection sessions
10am-2pm every Friday, for 4 weeks
These sessions are aimed at supporting students in the field through reflection on the service experience while at the same time, offering some lenses that might assist in the reflection process and in linking it with the overall themes of the course i.e. to link the service and the learning. While Janice McMillan will provide the overall frame for the sessions, it is hoped that all course lecturers will be involved as this will facilitate the links between the service and academic components of the course.

2c. Group task: Developing asset map of Khayelitsha
This will be done concurrently with community service and reflection sessions and will be presented to the community in the final week. It will also link with the theoretical aspects of the course.

Writing assignments and grading:

During Week 6, assessment will consist of:
* Written examination Monday 9am-11am
* Presentations of Reflection Essays Monday 2pm-5pm, Tuesday 9am-5pm
* Presentation of asset map to community members Wednesday 10am-3pm

Grading will be weighted as follows:

Section 1:

1. Reflection papers x3 30%
These papers are aimed at assisting students to write an account of their experiences so that they can develop an ongoing process of learning and reflection.

2. Reflection essay-
   Essay 50%
   Presentation 20%

Total: 3 credits

Section 2:

Written examination 100%

Total: 3 credits
COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK 1
Arcadia Orientation

WEEK 2

A. Seminars
Introducing the course and development

Monday
Introduction to service learning
Tour of Khayelitsha

Reading:
* Stanton, T (1998) Institutionalizing service-learning within postsecondary education: transformation or social adaptation?

Tuesday
a) Thinking critically about service learning and power

Reading:

b) Introduction to Asset Mapping - extract from:

* Kretzman, J & McKnight, J (1993) Building communities from the inside out: A path toward finding and mobilizing a community’s assets. Evanston, IL: Institute for Policy Research. URL: [http://www.northwestern.edu/ipr/publications/community/introd-building.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/ipr/publications/community/introd-building.html)


Wednesday
Human Scale Development: Needs and Satisfiers

Reading:
Thursday
Development in context

Reading:

2. Service-learning/Reflection:

2a. Community service

Monday-Thursday, 2-5pm
Khayelitsha SHAWCO Centre Holiday Program

2b. Reflection session
Friday
Introduction to some frames to assist in reflecting on the service experience: experiential learning cycle, learning histories, mediated discourse analysis

Reading:
* Boud, D (1990) Making the most of experience. *Studies in Continuing Education* 12(2) pp. 61-80

**Reflection paper 1 – due in the following Monday

WEEK 3

A. Seminars
Planning for Change, Appreciating Community Assets

Monday
Introducing Local Governance in Cape Town

Reading:

Tuesday
The Failure of Top-down Development

Reading:

Wednesday
Understanding Informal Settlements
Reading:

Thursday
Race, Class and Social Organisations

Reading:

2. Service-learning/Reflection:

2a. Community service:
Monday-Thursday, 2-5pm
Khayelitsha SHAWCO Centre Holiday Program

2b. Reflection session
Friday
Linking asset mapping with the process of experiential learning and reflection in service learning.

Readings:
Draw on the readings already given and reflect on the processes of learning and service so far.

**Reflection paper 2: to be handed in the following Monday.

WEEK 4

A. Seminars

Monday
The Politics of Housing in Cape Town

Reading:

Tuesday
The Informal Economy

Reading:

Wednesday
Fatherhood and family structure in post-Apartheid South Africa
**Reading:**

**Thursday**
Being Young in South Africa

**Reading:**


2. Service-learning/Reflection:

2a. **Community service:**
**Monday-Thursday, 2-5pm**
Khayelitsha SHAWCO Centre Holiday Programme

2b. **Reflection session**
**Friday**
Reflection on the process of doing service, entering the space of ‘others’ and reflecting on this.

**Reading:**

**Reflection paper 3 due next Monday**

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**WEEK 5**

**A. Seminars**

**Monday**
Drugs, gangs and violence

**Reading:**

**Film:**
Tsotsi/ In my mother’s house

**Tuesday**
HIV/AIDS in society
Reading:

Wednesday
Social movements, socio-economic rights and substantial democratisation in South Africa

Reading:

Thursday
Politics in South African townships

Reading:

2. Service-learning/Reflection:

2a. Community service
Monday-Thursday, 2-5pm
Khayelitsha SHAWCO Centre Holiday Programme

2b. Reflection session
Friday
Compiling the asset map and reflecting on the process

WEEK 6

Assessment/Evaluation/Grading:

A. Written examination Monday 9am-11am
B. Presentations of Reflection Essays Monday 2pm-5pm, Tuesday 9am-5pm
C. Presentation of asset map to community members Wednesday 10am-3pm