

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN,
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

Course Number: SW 360K /SW393K
Unique Number: 64130/64555

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CROSS-DISCIPLINARY GLOBAL PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

I. Course Description

Community-based project development is an effort to create positive change to enhance people's lives. Yet, the current U.S. discourse on global development is often limited to a "location abroad" while domestic project development needs abound. This course introduces students to the challenges and successes of sustainable global project development with an emphasis on underdeveloped communities abroad and in our "own back yards". Through this course, students will acquire a comprehensive understanding of significant social, political and economic problems confronting local and global communities, and the need to consider the community's unique history and social-cultural factors in development project planning and implementation. Using a cross-disciplinary approach, the course engages students in comparative analysis of community development strategies while immersing them in hands-on projects in local economically distressed communities. Students are actively involved in developing innovative solutions to community development and considering how community involvement experiences contribute to their civic participation.

The course involves experiential and classroom learning with a Service Learning Component in the Austin neighborhood of Dove Springs. Service learning is a pedagogical model that intentionally integrates reciprocal community service, academic and civic learning, and reflection.

II. Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will demonstrate:

- **Ability to engage in complex analysis** based on knowledge of significant social, political and economic problems confronting communities.
- **Collaborative community engagement** by developing innovative culturally grounded solutions in partnership with other disciplines, community members, and organizations in concert with peers.
- **Understanding of complex issues involved with community-university partnerships** based on readings and experience in a service learning project.
- **Application of methods, theory & research** using CRAFT model of community engagement to implement "best practices" for Service Learning Project.
- **Civic imagination & action** in building sustainable change through the Service Learning Project.
- **Transformative critical thinking** through integrated self-reflection, intercultural maturity, commitment to public service, and ability to effectively relate to others.

III. Teaching methods

My philosophy of teaching is based on the belief that every student is an active and responsible participant in their learning, and that meaning and knowledge acquisition are built on the praxis of study, reflection, dialog, and action. I utilize a multimedia approach that considers a variety of learning styles while building knowledge within context,

applying theory to practice, and encouraging students to assume responsibility for their education. To accomplish these goals I utilize the Learning Record method of assessment. My theoretical framework for teaching derives from Freire's seminal work, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* and his belief that education is a partnership between teacher and student, and that education is more than a transmission of knowledge to students who are an empty account to be filled by the teacher. Also informing my teaching is John Dewey's philosophy of experiential education that posits significant learning occurs when critical problems "are examined, reflected and acted upon in their contextual complexity" (Harkavy, p. 419, 201). This course incorporates a variety of teaching methods built around a service learning project including reflection through blogs and the Learning Record, lectures, readings, group work, in class and online discussions, guest speakers, audiovisual materials, and a final student group presentation to ensure a rich learning experience.

IV. Required Text and Readings

1. Knight, K., Schwarzman, M., & Others (2006). *Beginner's guide to community-based arts*. New Village Press: Oakland, CA. (order online)
2. On-Line Course Readings: Readings will be posted to the course Wiki page.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Learning Record

We will use the Learning Record (LR), a system for gathering, organizing, analyzing, evaluating, and reporting evidence of student progress and achievement. It is likely that evaluation by the Learning Record will be handled quite differently than in other classes you've experienced. While it offers a consistent structure for organizing and presenting this evidence, it does not constrain either the contents or the methods by which the evidence is produced; however there are required activities of the course that will be included in the LR work samples (see below). The principles of the LR model include review of diverse forms of data about student learning over time in the course of regularly occurring class activities, including samples of student work and observations that focus on what students demonstrate they know and can do. The LR, combined with blogging, provides tools for critical reflection that is a core principle in academic service learning.

The process of keeping the LR begins by establishing the student's background from two sources: an **interview with a parent** or someone who knows the student well, and the **student's reflections** about his or her development (**Part A**).

The next step is to gather ongoing evidence of learning in two forms: **work samples**, for which virtually any kind of evidence can be included in the LR, including tape recordings of performances, drafts of papers, sketches and diagrams, diagnostic test results, quizzes or exams, links to online materials, and other samples of student work. The second form of evidence is **observations** of students' activity gathered over the semester providing insights into their experiences and activities in the class. In the **analysis** portion of the LR (**Part B**), this evidence is interpreted in terms of the strands of work in the course (its objectives) and six dimensions of learning:

DIMENSIONS OF LEARNING	COURSE STRANDS/OBJECTIVES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Confidence and independence ▪ Knowledge and understanding ▪ Skills and strategies ▪ The use of prior and emerging experience ▪ Reflection ▪ Creativity and imagination 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ability to engage in complex analysis based on knowledge significant social, political and economic problems confronting local and global communities 2. Collaborative community engagement by developing innovative culturally grounded solutions in partnership with other disciplines, community members, and organizations in concert with peers. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application of methods, theory & research using CRAFT model of community engagement to design and implement “best practices” for Service Learning Project. 2. Civic imagination & action in building sustainable change through the Service Learning Project. 3. Transformative critical thinking through integrated self-reflection, intercultural maturity, commitment to public service, and ability to effectively relate to others

In the final section of the LR (**Part C**) students develop an **evaluation**, comparing the evidence in the LR with grade criteria defined by the instructor (see Grades section). The professor responds to the evidence, the analysis, and the student's estimated grade with the final evaluation. Thus, the LR is well suited to assess collaborative work, creative inquiry, online projects, and other kinds of work that are usually considered difficult to evaluate. It is also well suited for evaluating students who come into the class with different sets of skills and background experience, or physical or learning disabilities.

Using the wiki to store your Learning Records

A wiki is a website that is editable by many people. It is easy to use, and can house many kinds of materials, such as word-processing documents, movie and photography files, tables and many more. We will use the wiki as a resource for the class to use to share materials and build projects. Student Learning Records will also be housed here. Each student will have their own password-protected folder that contains all their LR documents, observations, work samples, and other materials. Whereas other areas of the wiki will be available for the whole class to view and edit, only the individual student and instructor will have access to their own LR folder and contents.

Required Assignments and Activities

1. Attendance, Punctuality, and In-Class Contributions: Students are expected to attend class regularly and participate in an interactive framework between students and professor. Failure to attend class regularly and failure to demonstrate comprehension of the readings through class discussion will have an impact on the final grade.

2. Part A of Learning Record (Interview, Observations, Selection of Work Samples)

The purpose of Part A is to give students an opportunity to reflect on their development as readers, writers, and thinkers in a discipline as they enter the class. Where students are asked to interview parents or others familiar with their development, Part A also engage students in first-hand research on a subject of great personal interest to them. They practice interviewing skills and strategies, gathering field notes, and making summary interpretations that become part of the record.

The **data collection** section is in two parts; it engages students in making first-hand *observations* of ongoing activities, and in selecting relevant *examples of work* demonstrating their own development over time. The

observational notes, though brief, help students learn about and reflect on the relationship between direct perception and interpretation or evaluation. Because these observations must present positive, rather than negative representations of activity, students are confronted with the powerful role of language in shaping perceptions of reality. The selection of samples of work engages them in matching evidence and criteria for achievement.

Interview

Criteria

- Interview is complete, includes student reflection
- Timely completion
- Provides a good sense of the student's experience and learning style coming into the class
- **DUE DATE: September 23**

Observations

The purpose of observations is that they illustrate patterns of learning over time and give a sense of how students apply what they learn to world. At least twice weekly entries in LR – these are not to exceed two to three sentences and are not reflections or opinions. Observations may include anything relevant to course content. Example: *I notice that mainly people of color are waiting for public transportation, older people were ignored by shop attendants when I was at the electronics store and every time I enter a building I am noticing if it is accommodating to disabled people.*

Criteria

- Timely completion of observations
- Properly dated
- Sufficient observations to give a sense of the student's development over time
- Describe an activity related to the class
- Focus on actual observations of what the student knows or can do, rather than on interpretations, opinions, evaluations, or on what hasn't been done or what should have been done

Observations are due every Monday by noon for the previous week.

Work Samples

Criteria for Work Samples

- Sufficient samples of work that represent the student's development
- Appropriate selection of samples
- The selection of samples gives the reader and student a sense of development over time
- Integration into LR Part B and C, matching evidence and criteria for achievement

3. Blog Entries

This course involves fieldwork, required reading and classroom interaction. Each student will create a blog and make weekly entries that reference the readings, classroom discussions, and responses to relevant issues related to social justice. The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate understanding of course content as well as:

- a) Clarify students' thoughts an understanding of their project based work, course content covered by the readings, videos, classroom activities and discussion;
- b) Examine the personal and professional use of self in ethical, culturally competent, and just social work practices; and
- c) Reflect on the impact of Project 2013 and other related activities, readings, current events, etc.
- d) Extend the dialog outside the classroom in a reflective and thoughtful manner, using a variety of media to articulate your responses and reflections on issues related to social justice, diversity and oppression covered in the readings

The professor may elect to provide specific questions related to the readings or class discussions for students to respond to in their blog posts. Blog posts can include photographs, video, and poetry, etc. as well as written reflections and responses to the readings. Students are also required to comment on at least two blogs of fellow students each week. While blog posts are candid and honest portrayals of your reflections and experiences, they must be respectful and are not an arena for digression on unrelated issues or personal attacks. **Blog posts are due Saturday by noon, and comments on students blogs each Monday by noon.**

Criteria

- Timely completion of the assignment.
- Address the key points from the readings/videos/classroom exercises and activities in the service-learning project.
- Connection between themes discussed in readings/videos/classroom exercises, and service-learning project to relevant individual, group and structural issues of the community and society.
- Comprehension, analysis and evaluation of themes discussed in readings/videos/classroom exercises, and service-learning project to relevant individual, group and structural issues of the community and society.

4. Cultural Assessment

The purpose of this assignment is to identify your “collective me” that has shaped your social identity. Choose 5 items that represent your social identities (e.g., race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, ability, religion, social class, nationality, age, size) that have influenced your worldview or behavior. These items might include photographs, pieces of art, jewelry, piece of clothing, or anything you believe has significant influence on how you perceive and behave in the world.

Criteria for evaluation

- Thoughtful reflection and sharing
- Completion of reflective blog post on activity
- **DUE DATE: September 30**

5. SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT PRESENTATION

The purpose of this assignment is for students to gain experience in presenting/representing their experience in a service-learning project that includes a synopsis of relevant demographic and historic information about the community they partnered with and critical issues identified through hands on experience, reflection (blogs), course readings, research about the community and dialog with their peers and community partners. Students are encouraged to be creative in their project presentations and utilize a variety of formats including photo essay, video, power point and even performance. There is great deal of latitude; however, students must prepare a presentation proposal and meet with the professor to answer questions and provide details prior to the day of service so students can be sure to collect any media and interviews they wish to use in their final presentation. Students will submit updates throughout the semester that demonstrate progress towards achievement of the presentation as detailed in the proposal. Students will present their projects in class at the end of the semester to their peers and invited guests.

Criteria for Project

- Clearly identifies and addresses the engagement in the service learning experience
- Communicates the complexities of the community engagement from an individual and structural perspective
- Connects and synthesizes service learning experience, course readings, discussions, films, guest speakers, and student development over the semester (documentation of the process should be evidenced in student’s LR)
- Presentation methods engages students in dialog about the service learning experience presented
- Adherence to the guidelines of the proposal approved by the professor

- Individual student contributions are evident in final product and during presentation (documentation should be evidenced in student's LR)

6. Part B1 & 2 and C1 &2

At mid semester students will complete Part B1 and C1 of the LR. This can be thought of as a “dry run” and is not graded and is **due Oct 21st**. It is intended to assess where the student is at a critical juncture and address and support any changes that need to be made. The completion of Part B2 and C2 at the end of the semester will determine the student's final grade. In the **analysis** portion of the LR (**Part B**), this evidence is interpreted in terms of the strands of work in the course (its objectives) and six dimensions of learning. In the final section of the LR (**Part C**) students develop an **evaluation**, comparing the evidence in the LR with grade criteria as outlined in the syllabus. The instructor responds to the evidence, the analysis, and the student's estimated grade with the final evaluation.

Criteria for Part B Summary interpretation

- Student interpretation is supported by observations and samples of work
- Refers to the dimensions of learning and the course strands (learning objectives established by the teacher) for the course
- Represent the student's activity and accomplishments

Criteria for Part C Grade Estimate

- Grade estimate matches the criteria for the grade as explained by the professor and outlined in the syllabus
- The student's LR follows the LR format
- The LR itself in one text document, in a folder that includes the samples of work as separate files
- The LR and its author properly identified in its file name

7. Additional LR Work Samples

Students are encouraged to contribute to the wiki page by uploading videos, links to articles and programs, and other relevant information. Students are a great source of information and inspiration, and the wiki is well suited to collective contributions that can be included in the student's LR as work samples.

8. Graduate level research/project component

Graduate students are required to propose and complete an independent research project, which must be proposed to the instructor by the 3rd week of class.

COURSE GRADING

Grades in this course are determined by use of the Learning Record Online, a system that requires students to compile a portfolio of work at the midterm and at the end of the semester. These portfolios present a selection of your work, both formal and informal, plus ongoing observations about your learning, plus an analysis of your work development across six dimensions of learning and centers on the course strands/objectives. (See previous table with descriptions)

Grade Criteria

A	Represents outstanding participation in all course activities; all assigned work completed, with very high quality in all work produced for the course. Evidence of significant development across the six dimensions of learning. The Learning Record at this level demonstrates activity that goes significantly beyond the required course work in one or more course strands.
B	Represents excellent participation in all course activities; all assigned work completed, with consistently high quality in course work. Evidence of marked development across the six dimensions of learning.
C	Represents good participation in all course activities; all assigned work completed, with generally good quality over six dimensions of learning.
D	Represents uneven participation in course activities; some gaps in assigned work completed, with inconsistent quality in course work. Evidence of development across the six dimensions of learning is partial or unclear.
F	Represents minimal participation in course activities; serious gaps in assigned work completed, or very low quality in course work. Evidence of development is not available.

VI. Class Policies

1. **Attendance:** Attendance and prompt arrival to class is mandatory. Individual exceptions are made only in the event of *properly documented* extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control and prior notice of reason for absence and/or tardy. Poor attendance/participation will impact grade. Students missing 5 or more classes will automatically fail the course
2. **Late Assignments:** Assignments are due on date assigned. Students will be accountable to tardy work in their Learning Record assessment and will have bearing on final grades.
3. **APA format:** We will use APA editorial style as the standard format for all written assignments. Details of the APA style are included in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition.
4. **Small group work:** Groups are expected to resolve challenges. The instructor serves as consultant on group dynamics and teamwork. Groups are not penalized in their grade for consulting with the instructor.
5. **Respect and Civility:** Cross-cultural group work can raise emotional issues and usually involves moderate to high processing of self and others. The instructor and classmates have the ethical responsibility to see that the class environment is maintained as a respectful and inviting place to grow together. We will not, nor should we, always agree with one another. In this environment we should be exposed to diverse ideas and opinions, and sometime we will not agree with the ideas expressed by others. However, the professor does require that students engage one another with respect and professionalism.
6. **Technology and Information Sharing:** We will technology frequently in this class. Due to the nature of the course, you will be sharing your work and reflections with classmates and peers. Some of your work will be accessible online. By taking this course, you indicate that you accept these requirements.

OTHER POLICIES:

The University of Texas Honor Code

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, the student may refer to the Web Site of the Student Judicial Services, Office of the Dean of Students (<http://www.utexas.edu/depts/dos/sjs/>).

Documented Disability Statement

Any student who requires special accommodations must obtain a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (471-6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). Present the letter to the professor at the beginning of the semester so that needed accommodations can be discussed. The student should remind the professor of any testing accommodations no later than five business days before an exam. For more information, visit <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>.

Religious Holidays

By UT Austin policy, students must notify the professor of a pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If the student must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, the professor will give the student an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Use of E-Mail for Official Correspondence to Students

Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, students are responsible for reading their email for university and course-related information and announcements. Students are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to their e-mail address. Students should check their e-mail regularly and frequently—daily, but at minimum twice a week—to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-sensitive. Students can find UT Austin's policies and instructions for updating their e-mail address at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php>.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)

If students are worried about someone who is acting differently, they may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone their concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>.

Emergency Evacuation Policy

Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform the professor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the professor's instructions.
- Do not re-enter a building unless you are given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

IX. COURSE SCHEDULE (Tenative)

DATE	TOPICS	ASSIGNED READING	ITEMS DUE
Week 1 September 9	Introductions Course Overview LR/WIKI Orientation Review of Syllabus and Assignments	Beginner's guide to community-based arts (Knight & Schwarzman, 2006)	
Week 2 September 16	Introduction of community development projects	Read Beginner's guide to community-based arts	Blog Post self-introduction with goals and dreams for the course, Observations
Week 3 September 23	CRAFT Model discussion Form project groups	Complete Beginner's guide to community-based arts	Blog Post answering 5 questions (on Wiki), Observations, Interview
Week 4 September 30	Entering communities and making the most of the reflective process See questions to for this discussion on Wiki that can also be used for next week's reading and blog post.	Voices from the Community: A Case for Reciprocity in Service-Learning (d'Arlach, Sánchez and Feuer, 2009) The Articulated Learning: An Approach to Guided Reflection and Assessment (Ash & Clayton, 2004)	Blog Post (Cultural Assessment), Observations Cultural Assessment
Week 5 October 7	A look at university-community partnerships: The big picture	Engagement Through University-Community Partnerships, Pew report Understanding Contemporary University-Community Connections: Context, Practice, and Challenges (Fisher, Fabricant & Simmons, 2008)	Blog Post, Observations

Week 6 October 14	Service Learning Unplugged	Shifting Service Learning From Transactional to Relational, Introducing Asset-Based Models of Social Justice into Service Learning; A Social Work Approach (Plitt-Donaldson & Daughtery, 2011) Pursuing Franklin's Dream: Philosophical and Historical Roots of Service Learning (Harkavy & Hartley, 2010)	Blog Post, Observations Project Presentation Proposals due
Week 7 October 21	Mid Semester Part B1 & C1 discussion and feedback	Project Work Day	Blog Post, Observations Part B1 & C1 due
Week 8 October 28	Theory to Practice: Wicked Problems	Dilemmas in a General Theory of Planning (Rittel & Weber, 1973) Wicked Problems and Social Complexity (Conklin, 2005)	Blog Post, Observations
Week 9 November 4	Visions, Strategies, and Inspiration	Movie: Wasteland	Blog Post, Observations
Week 10 November 11	Debriefing on projects		Blog Post, Observations
Week 11 November 18	Project Presentations		Blog Post, Observations
Week 12 November 25	Project Presentations		Blog Post, Observations
Week 13 December 2	Final Class Day		LR Part B2 & Part C2 Due