HON2001H: Reflecting on Service (1)

HON2002H: Reflecting on Service (2)

Course Description

Service learning is a two-semester requirement for all students in the Merrimack College Honors Program. At the broadest level, the requirement serves both the Program's and the College's core Augustinian values. The motivating vision is of experiential learning and service dedicated to the common good that challenges students to see their world differently. Ideally, service learning will be transformative.

Students normally in their sophomore year provide approximately two hours of individual on-site service each week. Service sites will be chosen in consultation with the Stevens Service Learning Center of Merrimack College. Whenever possible, the student will serve at same site for both semesters. Student preferences for the type and location of service will be honored whenever possible. Because service that connects to the student's own learning goals has the potential to be highly transformative, students are encouraged to seek service settings that draw on their particular interests and that can develop skills they are acquiring as part of their college education. Service provided through other Merrimack courses and programs (including Alternative Spring Break) does NOT count toward the satisfaction of the Honors Program service learning requirement.

To be truly transformative, a student's service experience must be accompanied by active reflection on what the student is engaged in. So to turn service into service learning, students will enroll in Reflecting on Service, a two-semester course sequence coinciding with the time of their service, HON2001H in the fall semester and its continuation HON2002H in the spring. The purpose of HON2001-2002 is to provide an opportunity for individual and group reflection on a student's service at the time that the service is being provided. The seminar will meet about six times each semester, and will consist of a variety of individual and group activities, including written reflections and oral discussion. Guest speakers and facilitators will also be invited.

Attendance is mandatory. A student who misses a class meeting must complete the online substitute material. There will be no required textbooks, graded papers, or exams, though students will be asked to complete short readings and ungraded writing projects. The successful completion of a student's service and of HON2001-HON2002 will count as one honors course. One credit each semester.

Schedule of Sessions and Topics: Fall Semester

Session 1 (9/9): *Introduction to Service Learning at Merrimack College*

> • Service and the Merrimack Mission.

>> Mary McHugh, the Stevens Service Learning Center

> • Outline of course requirements

> • List of current service sites

> • Proposing a student's own possibility

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BY FRIDAY, 9/13/13

Session 2 (9/23): *Preparing to Serve*

> • What are student expectations for their service project?

> • What is Service Learning? (handouts)

Session 3 (10/7): *Outside the Comfort Zone*

> • "Lawrence City of the Damned" (Boston Globe Magazine)

> • Researching Your Service Site/Organization

Session 4 (10/21): Service Professionals

> Speakers to be announced

Session 5 (11/18): *Approaches to Service Learning*

> Dean Dan Butin, School of Education

Session 6 (12/2): *Civic Engagement: Reflecting on a Semester of Service*

Schedule of Sessions and Topics: Spring Semester

Session 1 (January 30): Planning for the semester

• Names of SL leaders to invite as speakers

Session 2 (February 13): Dean Dan Butin, Approaches to Service Learning

• The Dean of the School of Education speaks on leading models of service learning

Session 3 (February 27): Researching SL models for honors

• Details of projects and choosing teams

Session 4 (March 13): *Film: Waiting for Superman*

• Looking at service from a different angle

Session 5 (April 3): Outside Speakers

• Leaders in service chosen by HON2002 students

Session 6 (April 17): Student-led session (I): Models for Honors Service Learning

• Presentations by SL teams

Session 7 (May 1): Student-led session (II): Models for Honors Service Learning

• Presentations by SL teams