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AHHS 395.01: Geriatric Practicum - SVC/LRN

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Hudgins, Gayle A., "AHHS 395.01: Geriatric Practicum - SVC/LRN" (2014). *Syllabi*. 2298.

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HS 326
Geriatric Practicum SVC/LRN
Spring 2014

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SYLLABUS

Course Description

Supervised practical experience in a setting featuring elderly clients or patients. A service learning course format is used including a contract between the student and the site supervisor, scheduled meetings with the professor and other students, journal maintenance and evaluation at the end of the semester. HS 326 Geriatric Practicum is usually taken in conjunction or after completion of HS 325 Introduction to Gerontology or equivalent coursework or experience with the elderly. Students in this class reflect on experiences relating to geriatric course content and that which is specific to the students' disciplines.

UM Service Learning Definition

Service Learning is a method of teaching and learning in which students, faculty and community partners work together to enhance student learning by applying academic knowledge in a community-based setting. Student work addresses the needs of the community, as identified through collaboration with community or tribal partners, while meeting instructional objectives through faculty-structured service work and critical reflection meant to prepare students to be civically responsible members of the community. At its best, service learning enhances and deepens students' understanding of an academic discipline by facilitating the integration of theory and practice, while providing them with experience that develops life skills and engages them in critical reflection about individual, institutional, and social ethics.

Class Schedule

Initial meeting:	Week of January 27
Service learning contracts due:	Week of February 3
Midpoint meetings	Weeks of March 3, April 7
Final meeting	Finals week

Service Expectation

It is expected that the student will perform, at a minimum, 2 hours of service per week for each credit carried. That is:

- 1 credit – 2 hours/week – 30 hours total for the semester
- 2 credits - 4 hours/ week – 60 hours total for the semester
- 3 credits – 6 hours/week – 90 hours total for the semester

Since most students don't get started in the service learning site until the second or third week of the semester, hours may be accrued during spring break and/or finals week as needed to meet the total hours required. The student's schedule in the site should be specified in the service learning contract and should be adhered to throughout the semester. If the student cannot be in the site as scheduled on any given day, it is the student's responsibility to notify the site supervisor.

Service Learning Contract

The completed service learning contract needs to be submitted by the specified date. Failure to adhere to the contract may result in a NCr grade for the course. Revisions in the contract, once established, require the approval of both the site supervisor and professor.

Identification of Site

A practice site will be identified for each student based on his or her major, career interests and prior experience. The professor will provide ideas, contact site supervisors and help the student set up the service learning experience. It is the student's responsibility to visit the site and meet with the supervisor to finalize the placement. The service learning contract can be finalized at that time.

The student is responsible for transportation to the site, any nametag or uniform required, but not furnished, by the site, and any health requirements of the site, such as a current PPD.

Journal

Each student is expected to maintain a journal of his or her experiences and reflections on that experience during the practicum. The journal will be reviewed at each of the midpoint meetings and collected at the final meeting. It will be returned to the student at the end of the semester.

Student Group Meetings

The students and professor will meet at approximately monthly intervals to discuss student experiences and reflect on their learning about older individuals, tying the experience back into geriatric course content. The students' journals will be reviewed at each meeting. Attendance is required at these meetings and the professor needs to be notified if the student can't attend so an alternative meeting can be arranged.

Evaluation

Evaluation forms will be given to students at the first group meeting and will be mailed to the site supervisors. Evaluation should be completed before the final group meeting and should be reviewed on site with the supervisor. The student should bring both his or her evaluation of the experience as well as the site supervisor's evaluation of the student to the final group meeting.

1/23/14