

**Service Learning**  
Engaging Students in Civic Responsibility, Academic Curriculum & Social Action  
**A Graduate Course**  
Syllabus

Teacher Education Institute ©

## **Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to provide educators with an understanding of service learning; the guiding principles of service learning activities; and how to implement, monitor, and evaluate effective service learning projects. Students will learn to design and initiate service learning projects at the K-12 level.

A thorough understanding of service learning supports a higher quality implementation of service learning projects, develops character, and supports the affective and cognitive domains of learning. Nationally, almost all K-12 schools support service projects and value the implications for character development associated with service learning. Many high schools require service credit hours as an elective towards graduation. Most colleges have volunteer divisions to promote community service and some even require service participation for graduation. Numerous major corporations conduct service projects for their employees. The understanding of the foundations of the concept of service, including how/why serving promotes learning and allows the provider to develop the internal motivation to serve others without being prompted by requirements or competitive goals, is a critical element that appears to be missing from popular conceptions of service.

This course will examine the past and current practices of service learning in educational settings. Participants will discover how service learning has become associated with schools and will also study the history of service learning in America. Participants will discover the varied and diverse activities providing service learning opportunities. Finally, participants will learn how to connect service learning activities to their state curriculum objectives and learning standards. Participants will understand how service learning enhances brain development, engages the learner/service provider, and affects the cognitive and affective domains of learning.

The goal of this course is to motivate teachers and students to view participating in service activities as necessary for enhancing learning and character development in the school environment.

## Objectives

- Examine and articulate a working definition of the concept of service learning.
- Identify and distinguish between the key elements of service learning.
- Articulate a rationale for service learning.
- Understand how to develop service as a character trait.
- Know how service projects have evolved nationally and in schools.
- Understand how service learning improves effective and cognitive learning processes.
- Recognize the motivation of well-known individuals who provided service to others.
- Explore local community groups and school projects that provide service.
- Explore new initiatives and resources for student involvement.
- Explore major educational and social service organizations.
- Learn to design, implement, monitor, and evaluate service learning projects.
- Learn how to incorporate state curriculum standards and learning objectives with service learning projects.

## Curriculum Design

This is a forty-five hour, three credit, graduate level online course to be completed two weekends or five consecutive days.

## Course Materials

Kaye, C. B. (2010). *The Complete Guide to Service Learning 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.* Free Spirit Publishing; MN.  
ISBN: 978-1-57542-345-6

Websites and additional resources will be used to provide students with the most recent information about service learning.

## Student Requirements

1. Participation: Actively participate in all class activities.
2. Reading: Complete all readings and reflections.
3. Students are required to complete a service learning project in their school setting. Reflections and an evaluation rubric for this project must be submitted by the end of Session 10.

<u>Grading Criteria</u>	<u>Points/Percentage</u>	<u>Grading Scale</u>
Sessions	65%	100-93 <b>A</b>
Final Project	25%	92-85 <b>B</b>
Final Exam	<u>10%</u>	84-77 <b>C</b>
	100%	

## **Student Academic Integrity**

Participants guarantee that all academic work is original. Any academic dishonesty or plagiarism (to take ideas, writings, etc. from another and offer them as one's own) is a violation of student academic behavior standards as outlined by our partnering colleges and universities and is subject to academic disciplinary action.

## **Session Outline**

### **Session One: What is Service Learning?**

Content:

1. Member introductions
2. Participants Make Agreements for Class Norms/Expectations
3. Course Sessions, resources and requirements
4. Personal Reflection and Experience with service, learning and service learning
5. Define and articulate a working definition of the concept of service learning
6. Explore the process of service learning
7. Analyze an example of a service learning project
8. Summary Assignment

### **Session Two: Exploring the Blueprint and Thematic Chapters of Service Learning**

Content:

1. Review the service learning blueprint for success
2. Explore various points of entry for service learning projects
3. Learn strategies for advancing your service learning practices
4. Become oriented with the thematic chapters of service learning projects
5. Explore the service learning bookshelf
6. Summary Assignment

### **Session Three: Service Learning Themes: AIDS Education & Animal Protection**

Content:

1. Prepare for service learning that involves AIDS education and awareness
2. Explore the AIDS education and awareness bookshelf
3. Prepare for service learning that involves animal protection and care
4. Explore the animal protection and care bookshelf
5. Summary Assignment

### **Session Four: Service Learning Themes: Elders & Emergency Readiness**

Content:

1. Prepare for service learning that involves elders
2. Explore the elders bookshelf
3. Prepare for service learning that involves emergency readiness
4. Explore the emergency readiness bookshelf
5. Summary Assignment

### **Session Five: Service Learning Themes: The Environment & Gardening**

Content:

1. Prepare for service learning that involves the environment
2. Explore the environment bookshelf
3. Prepare for service learning that involves gardening
4. Explore the gardening bookshelf
5. Summary Assignment

### **Session Six: Service Learning Themes: Healthy Living & Hunger, Homelessness and Poverty**

Content:

1. Prepare for service learning that involves healthy living
2. Explore the healthy living bookshelf
3. Prepare for service learning that involves hunger, homelessness and poverty
4. Explore the hunger, homelessness and poverty bookshelf
5. Summary Assignment

### **Session Seven: Service Learning Themes: Immigrants & Literacy**

Content:

1. Prepare for service learning that involves immigrants
2. Explore the immigrant bookshelf
3. Prepare for service learning that involves literacy
4. Explore the literacy bookshelf
5. Summary Assignment

### **Session Eight: Service Learning Themes: Safe, Strong Communities & Social Change**

Content:

1. Prepare for service learning that involves safe, strong communities
2. Explore the safe, strong communities bookshelf
3. Prepare for service learning that involves social change
4. Explore the social change bookshelf
5. Summary Assignment

### **Session Nine: Creating a Culture of Service**

Content:

1. Prepare for service learning that involves people with special needs and disabilities
2. Explore the special needs and disabilities bookshelf
3. Understand why a culture of service learning is necessary
4. Learn how to create a culture of service in your school
5. Summary Assignment

### **Session Ten: Final Project**

Content:

1. Review of major course concepts
2. Final project presentations
3. Course evaluations

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