

# Service-Learning

Instructor: Jody Lantz

Class Code : SVL400

Co-teacher?

Tuition : \$30

Length of Class (1st sem/ 2nd sem/both) **spring**

Materials Fee : \$5

## Description

This class gives students an opportunity to learn critical thinking, writing, communication, and public speaking skills through serving others. During the semester, each student will need to volunteer at least one hour per week at a location of his/her choice. Examples could include a nursing home, an afterschool program, an animal shelter, a sports team, an environmental program, etc. The hope is to foster a passion for serving as well as experience and skills for their future opportunities. The instructor is glad to provide ideas for possible volunteer placements, but ultimately the arrangements, supervision, and transportation for the volunteering will be up to the student/family.

Students will be explicitly encouraged to learn and practice good email and face-to-face communication skills to handle their responsibilities for volunteering as independently and effectively as possible. After each time of volunteering, the students will make a journal entry to reflect on what they did, what went well, what was a challenge, and what their goals are for the next time. Students will use these entries for collaboration in class focusing on critical thinking and problem solving.

Over the course of the semester, the students will work on a 5-10 page research paper focusing on what they learn about volunteering in general, their field of volunteering, their specific placement location, communication skills for handling their responsibilities, and their own personal growth from their experiences.

The course will culminate with a celebration in which students will make speeches based on their research papers.

# Grading Policy

## Standard Policy

## Specific Policy

This class is cumulative & requires on-time completion of journal entries and paragraphs to benefit from in-class work. Late work will lose 10 percentage points per day. If an assignment is late, students should email it to the instructor as soon as possible.

Students are allowed to miss one volunteering shift and the related journal with no penalty. Students may reschedule shifts within the same week at their discretion and with the permission of their volunteering site. Students are encouraged to reschedule (rather than miss shifts) & keep up with their journals in case they most need to take the excused shift/journal late in the semester. If there is a serious health problem or other crisis, please talk to the instructor to see if alternate arrangements are possible. Students/families are encouraged to consider back-up transportation to help the student get to his/her placement in case the student's normal ride is not available. It is the responsibility of the student to notify his/her placement site each time he/she will be absent or needs to reschedule.

If students come to 3 classes without their homework completed, they will be dismissed from the class with no refund.

**Enrollment:**

4

**Max:** 9

**Pre-Requisites:**

Arrangement of a volunteer placement for 1 hour or more per week to start during the second week of the spring semester

**Required Text:**

None

**Additional Materials:**

Notebook to use for journal entries; students will be encouraged to personalize their notebook covers. Students will also need access to the internet for research.

## Contact Information

**Name:** Jody Lantz

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