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LAR 303: Impact Seminar: Connecting Knowledge to Choices & Actions BUILDING BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will develop students' teamwork and leadership skills to prepare for citizenship or work as they connect theory, practice and experience. Students, drawn from multiple fields of specialized study, will collaboratively analyze a complex real-world problem, develop an empathetic understanding of multiple perspectives needed to comprehend the issue, and propose possible solutions. Students will be engaged through experiential pedagogies selected as appropriate by the LAR 303 instructors. Students will publicly present work.

(Prerequisites: junior or senior status, and successful completion of LAR 202 or equivalent)

LAR 303 UNDERGRADUATE CORE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will work to:

- construct a reasoned understanding of a problem with evidence of relevant contextual factors, including ethical, logical, and cultural dimensions of the problem;
- articulate multiple approaches for solving the problem and propose one or more solutions/hypotheses that indicate a deep comprehension of the problem;
- engage all participants to foster a constructive team climate;
- reflect on their progress on the essential learning outcomes, drawing on their specialized studies (majors/minors), foundational areas of knowledge, liberal arts seminars, and experiential activities in order to express their distinctive voices, define their own ethical values, and understand and prepare for their multiple roles in a just society.

COURSE-SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will work to

- understand poverty and the hidden rules associated with it;
- understand the challenges and strengths of people in poverty;
- collaboratively explore poverty in the classroom;
- serve people in poverty; and
- develop a program or process to help people move out of poverty.

TEXT (Required):

DeVol, P., Payne, R., & Smith, T. (2009). *Bridges out of poverty: Strategies for professionals and communities*. Highlands, TX: aha! Process, Inc.

ISBN: 9781934583357

METHODS FOR ASSESSMENT:

- The ability of students to engage, interact, communicate, and effectively work with faculty and each other (foster a constructive team climate) will be assessed through attendance, participation in and out of the classroom, peer evaluations, and faculty observation.
- A reasoned understanding of poverty with evidence of relevant contextual factors, including ethical, logical, and cultural dimensions of the problem will be assessed through written assignments, participation in active learning, and presentations.
- The ability of students to articulate multiple approaches for solving the problem of poverty and propose one or more solutions/hypotheses that indicate a deep comprehension of the problem will be assessed by student participation in service learning, reflective writing, and faculty observation.
- Students' reflection on their progress on the essential learning outcomes, drawing on their specialized studies (majors/minors), foundational areas of knowledge, liberal arts seminars, and experiential activities in order to express their distinctive voices, define their own ethical values, and understand and prepare for their multiple roles in a just society will be assessed through a cover letter and portfolio.

CLASS POLICIES & GRADING:

- **Grading** - Students will earn a final grade of A+, A, B+, B, C+, C, D+, D, or F based on the average of assessments of all assignments, attendance, and engagement.
- **Attendance** –This class is experiential, participative, and collaborative. We are in this together. The absence of any one person will be felt by all, so please plan to attend and engage in all class sessions.
- **Assignments** – Assignments may include reading, in-class activities, group work, research, community service, writing and presentations.
- **Service Learning** – Service learning is a teaching method that combines academic knowledge with meaningful community service and reflection.
- **Academic Integrity** – This policy requires that you immediately and cheerfully offer the benefit of your knowledge and skills to any fellow student who needs your help. Additionally, always show respect for the ideas or words of others by giving them the credit. Failure to collaborate or show respect will result in an “F.”

For all other policies including ADA, FERPA, Anti-harassment, and others, please see the College of Professional Studies Student Handbook published online at <http://catalog.doane.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=644>.