Community Service Studies (CSS)

Community service is an integral part of American life. It is often equated with volunteerism of all sorts; however, engaging in service to communities raises complex issues that go beyond the acts of teaching a child to read, feeding the homeless, or tutoring English to a newly arrived immigrant. Issues of social justice, including race, class, language, socioeconomic standing, cultural sensitivity and privilege, pervade most activities we associate with community service.

Community Service Studies is an interdisciplinary experiential learning program that offers students a context for critically reflecting upon and engaging in service and volunteerism.

The Community Service Minor combines courses from several disciplines that provide a framework for viewing community service from the perspectives of theory, ethics and group dynamics. The curriculum relies heavily upon community-based service learning courses. This form of experiential learning is designed for students interested in developing a deeper understanding and practice of community service either as a prelude to a career after graduation or to enhance their personal sense of social justice as they enter the world of work. In this way, students are provided with the opportunity to integrate progressively deeper and more challenging forms of service and social engagement with more challenging intellectual reflection.

Community Service Minor

The minor requires the completion of six courses (24 credit hours): two of which are mandatory, and four of which must be community-based service learning (CbSL) courses. (Note: CbSL courses are those which incorporate a minimum of 25 hours of community service into the course requirements.) Course numbers and titles in italics below are community-based service learning courses.

All undergraduate students are eligible to complete a Community Service Minor. Course selection beyond the two mandatory courses must be done in consultation with the Director of the Community Service Minor. The student may be awarded an American Humanics Certificate along with the minor. Consult the Director of the Community Service Minor for more details.

Minor requirements. All students must complete the two foundations courses. Students must choose the additional four courses from Theoretical Frameworks, Ethical Approaches and Group Dynamics. One course must come from each of these three categories. One additional course must come from any of these three categories. For more information about courses offered during current academic year, go to www.depaul.edu/~cbsl.

American Humanics

Students may apply many of the courses in the Community Service Minor toward American Humanics (AH) certification. AH provides the opportunity for students to develop internships and professional contacts in national non-profit organizations. Certification requires active participation in the DePaul AH Student Association, 300 internship hours at a non-profit organization, and attendance at AH Management Institute. Two courses are mandatory for certification: MPS 200 American Humanics – Management of Non-Profit Organizations and MPS 395 American Humanics Internship. Please contact the Public Services Program at (312) 362-8441 for more details.
Foundations - Community Service Minor

Community Service Studies

CSS 201 Perspectives on Community Service explores the relationship between social justice movements and non-profit organizations in the U.S. by providing a structure within which students can learn about issues and theory and the organizational settings in which they are serving.

CSS 395 Community Internship exposes students to career potentials in non-profit and government agencies through an intensive internship experience in a community organization.

Theoretical Frameworks. Courses in this category emphasize historic and systemic analyses of social and economic inequality and theories of society and/or social change or of justice/injustice.

Catholic Studies: CTH 247 Introduction to Social Ethics; CTH 341 Liberation Theology; CTH 354 Special Topics in Catholic Thought; CTH 389 Special Topics in the Social Dimension of Catholicism

Communications: CMN 361 Gender and Communication; CMN 391 Communication, Culture and Community

Latin American/Latino Studies: LST 202 The Construction of Latino Communities: Life on the Hyphen; LST 307 Growing up Latina/Latino in the U.S.

Political Science: PSC 218 African-American Politics; PSC 223 Urban Politics; PSC 232 Legal Theory and Social Justice; PSC 286 Campaigns and Social Engagement; PSC 320 Dynamics of Public Policy; PSC 361 Theory and Practice of Public Policy

Religious Studies: REL 206 Social Ethics; REL 351 Liberation Theology

Sociology: SOC 105 Social Problems; SOC 203 Race and Ethnic Relations; SOC 211 Gender and Society; SOC 212 Community and Society; SOC 231 Urban Ethnicity; SOC 250 Group Diversity; SOC 311 Sociology of Latino Culture

Women's Studies: WMS 300 Feminist Theories; WMS 394 Methods and Scholarship in Women's Studies

Ethical Approaches. Courses in this category examine alternative ethical theories and their application as they relate to issues of justice/injustice and social change.

Catholic Studies: CTH 247 Introduction to Social Ethics; CTH 248 Religious Traditions and Contemporary Moral Issues; CTH 282 God, Justice and Redemptive Action; CTH 283 Ethics and Society in the Roman Catholic Tradition; CTH 286 The Catholic Church in World Politics; CTH 344 Social Ethics and Civil Law; CTH 351 Natural Law and Christian Ethics

Communications: CMN 323 The Rhetoric of Oppression

Political Science: PSC 213 Political Socialization; PSC 282 Political Action and Social Justice; PSC 324 Inequality in American Society; PSC 345 The Catholic Church in World Politics; PSC 347 Ethics in World; PSC 362 Criminal Justice System.

Religious Studies: REL 222 Religious Traditions and Contemporary Moral Issues; REL 258 God, Justice and Redemptive Action; REL 259 Religion and Social Engagement; REL 283 Ethics and Society in the Roman Catholic Tradition; REL 286 Papal Teaching on Social and Economic Justice; REL 322 Feminist Ethics
COMMUNITY SERVICE STUDIES

Sociology: SOC 200 Social Work and Social Welfare; SOC 248 White Racism; SOC 250 Group Diversity; SOC 340 Social Inequality

Group Dynamics. Courses in this category examine the interpersonal and small groups dynamics of social change and traits of effective community organizations, communication and leadership.

Catholic Studies: CTH 201 Catholicism in Chicago; CTH 389 Special Topics in Catholicism and Society

Communications: CMN 212 Small Group Communications

Latin American/Latino Studies: LST 306 Latino Communities in Chicago; LST 308 Latino Family Issues

Political Science: PSC 214 Multiculturalism and Democracy; PSC 325 Latino Political Empowerment

Religious Studies: REL 204 Religions of Chicago

Sociology: SOC 200 Social Work and Social Welfare; SOC 392 Sociology Internship; 394 Sociology in Action

Women's Studies: WMS 303 Women and Violence

Director: John T. Leahy, S.T.D. Associate Professor
Marianum Theological Faculty, Rome, Italy

COURSES

CSS201 PERSPECTIVES ON COMMUNITY SERVICE This course explores the relationship between social justice movements and non-profit organizations in the U.S. by providing a structure within which students can learn about issues and theory and the organizational settings in which they are serving.

CSS395 COMMUNITY INTERNSHIP Community internship exposes students to career potentials in non-profit and government agencies through an intensive internship experience in a community organization.