



GEMC3001 Service Learning/Civic Engagement

“Picking up trash on a riverbank is service.

Studying water samples under a microscope is learning.

When science students collect and analyze water samples, document their results, and present findings to a local pollution control agency – that is service learning.”*

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Course description

The Service Learning/Civic Engagement component of Morningside College’s General Education Programme gives students the opportunity to engage in substantive service work. The goal of the course is to allow students to apply in practical settings for the benefit of others some of what they are learning in the classroom, and to help them discover how they can make their own positive impact on the world. The course also inspires students to explore perennial questions of human existence and human values.

Learning outcomes

At the completion of the Service Learning Project students will be prepared to:

- recognize pressing societal issues in Hong Kong and the wider world;
- assess the resources available and determine what is important to communities in need;
- evaluate a range of possible methods and responses;
- combine prior classroom knowledge with experiences/observations in the field to make decisions and solve problems;
- understand root issues underlying community needs; and
- consider service not as a one-off experience, but as a lifetime commitment.

Assessment

	Non-College projects	College Service Learning Trips	Assignment deadline		
			Term 1	Term 2	Summer
Proposal	20%	---	BEFORE course enrollment	29 Nov	20 Mar
Pre-trip & small group meeting participation	---	20%	---	---	---
Journal, Supervisor’s Evaluation	20%	20%	29 Nov	27 Apr	29 Jun
Essay	40%	40%	9 Dec	4 May	3 July
Poster	20%	20%	16 Dec	11 May	3 July

* National Youth Leadership Council, 1667 Snelling Avenue North, Suite D300, Saint Paul, MN 55108 USA, “What is service learning?”, <http://www.nylc.org/>

Requirements

- All forms available from General Education Office, e-mail: gemc@cuhk.edu.hk, or on the College website: www.morningside.cuhk.edu.hk.
1. Submit the “GEMC3001 Service Project Proposal” form for approval before registering for GEMC3001. (For students completing formal internships with NGOs and/or non-college individualized service learning projects only.)
 2. Engage in a service project for a **minimum** of 40 hours and keep a journal in which you record and analyze your service experiences. Options for completing the project include:
 - formal internship with a non-governmental organization (NGO)
 - participation in a programme developed by the College or other units of the University
 - individualized service project (in Hong Kong or elsewhere)
 3. Ensure that your supervisor submits his/her signed evaluation **directly** to the General Education Office via e-mail, fax, or post.
 4. Submit (a) your service journal (Write immediately and frequently!); (b) a properly referenced essay that examines the service learning project and engages the readings listed in your proposal; and (c) a project poster by the end-of-term deadlines. All assignments and a Veriguide declaration for the essay must be submitted by the deadlines to gemc@cuhk.edu.hk. Late work will be subject to a penalty.

Your grades

A	Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes. Commentary is logical and well-argued. Reflections and analysis extend beyond the limits of the original question/topic. Your creative thinking surpasses our expectations. Background reading has been well appreciated and understood.
A-	Generally outstanding performance on all learning outcomes. Commentary is logical and well-argued. Background reading has been understood.
B	Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, or, high performance on some learning outcomes, which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance. You have done a significant amount of background reading and appreciate the major issues.
C	Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses. Some background reading has been done.
D	Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes. Little to no background reading has been done. You have a very limited understanding of the concepts and principles required by the question(s).
F	Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, or, failure to meet specified assessment requirements. No background reading has been done. You do not understand the concepts and principles required by the question(s)/topics and/or have made no effort to acquire the necessary knowledge.

Academic Honesty

Please refer to <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/> for details on the University’s policies regarding plagiarism and academic honesty. With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students’ uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.