***Project overview:***

As part of WSU’s community engagement initiative ([www.communityengagement.wayne.edu](http://www.communityengagement.wayne.edu)), this course requires you to complete 25 hours of *service learning* in an agency that serves underserved people in the Detroit metropolitan region.

According to Eyler and Files (1990):

Service-learning is a form of experiential education where learning occurs through a cycle of action and reflection as students work with others through a process of applying what they are learning to community problems and, at the same time, reflecting upon their experiences as they seek to achieve real objectives for the community and deeper understanding and skills for themselves (p. 3).

Thus, service learning provides you with the opportunity to learn first-hand about the impact of social forces on people in your community. This type of *experiential* learning is a higher-order level of learning that results in deeper understanding of the subject matter – in this case, sociology. In addition, service learning provides you with the opportunity to participate in efforts to ameliorate or otherwise cope with significant social problems that exist in your community.

***Choosing an agency and scheduling service hours:*** You must determine an agency where you will engage in service learning. You may choose an organization that is listed on the CommunityEngagement@Wayne website (<http://www.communityengagement.wayne.edu/volunteering.php>) or choose an alternative organization. By week three (01/21), you should know where you are going to complete your service learning hours. By week six (02/11), you should minimally have visited the agency and preferably engaged in some service.

If possible, you should complete the service learning requirement in 2 – 3 hour increments. You should try to engage in service 8 – 12 times throughout the semester. *You cannot wait until the end of the semester to complete all of your service learning hours.* Doing so will negatively impact your grade. A time log for documenting your service hours is available on Canvas. Each log entry must be signed and dated by a site supervisor.

***The service learning journal:*** In addition to completing 25 hours of service, you will *document* and *reflect on* your service learning experiences. For every 2 – 3 hours of service you complete, you will provide written responses to the following questions:

Service Learning Journal Questions:

1. *What happened during your service experience?*  [Choose one to three “critical incidents” that stand out to you.]
2. *How do you feel about what happened?*

[This question provides an opportunity for you to offer personal insights about how you felt and/or what you thought about your experiences/observations. For instance, if you talk with a man about what caused his homelessness, you might reflect on how his personal story substantiated or contradicted your existing beliefs about homelessness. You also are encouraged to pose curiosity questions and tentative answers (or educated guesses) about your experiences/observations, such as: I wonder why so many veterans are homeless? Perhaps one reason why veterans are more likely to be homeless than non-veterans is …?]

1. *What ideas from class (concepts, readings, discussions) provide insight into your experience? Explain* how they assist your understanding.

[This question requires you to engage with sociological ideas. By applying these ideas to your personal observations and experiences, you will cultivate a deeper level of understanding of course materials. You might consider the following questions: How do your experiences and observations reflect notions of privilege, power, and difference? How do your experiences and observations reflect larger social processes that produce and maintain inequalities? How are micro, macro, historical, and contemporary processes that sustain political, economic, and social inequalities manifested in the daily experiences of people who seek services from your service learning site? Definitions of concepts should always be *in your own words* and all course materials, including lecture notes, should be cited.]

1. *Is there anything you currently are or are not doing that impacts the situation you observed? What can you do with the knowledge gained from your experience to try to improve the situation?*

Each journal response should be a minimum of 1 page in length. Altogether you should complete 8 – 12 entries that collectively comprise a minimum of 8 – 12 pages. Sociological concepts and ideas applied to your experiences should be in **BOLD typeface**; not using **BOLD typeface** will negatively impact your grade.

It is critical that you complete each journal entry soon after completing a set of 2 – 3 service hours. Memories of experiences, encounters, thoughts, and feelings fade fast. Waiting to write about your experiences/observations will significantly diminish the quality of your work. ***Printed*** journal entries, **DUE in class on Thursday, April 16th**, will be graded according to the following criteria:

* Content: All four questions are answered clearly and completely. Answers to questions #1 and #2 are descriptive and detailed. Answers to questions #3 and #4 are thoughtful and analytical. Information based on your observations/experiences is accurately integrated with information learned in class (i.e., sociological concepts/ideas that are in **BOLD** typeface).
* Grammar and citations: Your writing is grammatically correct, appropriately cited, and contains minimal spelling errors and/or typos.
* Organization: Journal entries are in chronological order. Pages are numbered. Your name is visible on the first page. Your time log is the last page.

***The creative project:*** In addition to the Service Learning Journal, you are required to complete *one additional assignment*. A hard copy of this assignment also is **DUE in class on Thursday, April 16th.**

*OPTION #1: Sports Analogies w. Rulebook*

Baseball, volleyball, football, soccer (etc.) have well-established rules of the game. What is the “golden rule” of your service learning experience? What would happen if you or someone in your position broke this rule? Write a rulebook of your service learning experience. Include at least five “rules” and penalties and/or consequences of breaking them.

*OPTION #2: Ad Campaign w. Bumper Sticker*

Create an advertising campaign that captures what you learned and/or speaks to a community need you witnessed during your service learning experience. Create a bumper sticker that addresses this community need. Feel free to explore this assignment creatively! You may choose to describe your ad campaign in writing, but you are encouraged to use graphics, video, etc.

*OPTION #3: Choose Your Own Adventure :D*

You may propose a different creative project that inspires you and/or directly benefits the organization with which you worked. Proposals must be approved by Amanda. The deadline for submitting *OPTION #3* proposals is Tuesday, March 31st.