HNRS 3391          Sr. Damien Marie Savino, Ph.D.
Community Service Project      Office: 108 Robertson Hall
Fall 2015          Phone: 713-525-3894
Thursday 6:00 pm – 8:15 pm Sullivan 102  Email: savinod@stthom.edu

REQUIREMENTS
⇒ Seventy-Five Hours of Service Work on a Project Approved by the Honors Program Committee
⇒ Reflective Journal of service work experience
⇒ Classroom Participation
⇒ Synthetic paper
⇒ Team Presentation

GRADING
1) Service Project: evaluation, journal 50%
2) Synthetic paper 20%
3) Student-led discussion 15%
4) Class participation 15%

SOCIAL SERVICE PROJECT GUIDELINES
GOALS:
1. To learn “reflective practical action.”
2. To learn how work is to be “sanctified” through dedication to excellence and the spirit of service.
3. To learn the connection between self-development and service to others.
4. To manifest the university’s commitment to the Houston metropolitan area and to strive to foster the common good of the local, state, and national communities.
5. To exist with, to understand, and to defend the weaker and marginalized members of our society.

OBJECTIVES:
Each student must be able to plan and complete a period of service to people in need, coinciding with a semester of study and reflection on contemporary problems of social justice. This will include:
1. A service project where the student will either:
   a) participate for a semester in some ongoing project of a social service organization, or
   b) create a project to be sponsored by a social service agency or other appropriate institution or group. This could be organized around some skill or training that the student has to offer an agency.
   • [The service project is not an internship undertaken for the purpose of professional development, but an exercise in bringing a liberal arts education to fruition through active engagement with human and societal problems.
   • Service placements are chosen by the student, not assigned. In the semester prior to taking this course, the student should have investigated service opportunities and presented a project to the Honors Program Committee for approval.]

2. A reading list including works on the meaning of service, social justice, and work from 20th century novelists, philosophers, social critics will be assigned. See the list as follows:
   • Joseph Langford, Mother Teresa’s Secret Fire (Our Sunday Visitor) [159276309X]
   • Day, Dorothy Selected Writings edited by Robert Ellsberg  Orbis Press  978-1-57075-581-1
   • Jean Vanier and Carolyn Whitney Brown, Jean Vanier: Essential Writings, Modern Spiritual Masters, (Orbis Books 2008) 978-1570758065
3. A 20-30 page journal to record the experiences of the project, to reflect on their meaning, and to interpret them in light of the student’s liberal arts education, with particular reference to the reading list. Your journals should contain the following components or elements to them:
   - Observations of your place of service, a description of the people, their life circumstances, etc.
   - Reflections on the reasons for social service.
   - Integration of the philosophical and theological foundations for social/political action.
   - Drawing connections between the books used in class, what is going on in the world, and other things that are going on in your lives.
   - Why participation in social service activities is seen as being a part of the “good life” in Catholic thought.

4. Student-led class sessions where the books assigned for the course and the problems and issues that they raise are discussed. Each student will be a discussion leader and will prepare a two-three page handout for the class with a list of some key themes and passages for discussion. The student leader will present a summary of key ideas and then facilitate discussion.

5. Each student will prepare a 10-12 paper in he/she synthesizes major ideas of the readings pertaining to service to the marginalized and suffering in the modern world. The paper should identify and elaborate on 4-6 ideas about service you have learned, integrating the course readings.

**SCHEDULE**

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<th>Person</th>
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