SERVICE LEARNING is a method of engaged scholarship, which involves the community. As part of course work, students become involved in the surrounding community through meaningful interaction that gives real-life perspective on the topics studied. Enhanced by community-directed research, students, community, and institutions of higher learning all benefit from this relationship. It is considered the best practice of engaged learning.

SOCS 385 focuses on the theory, methodology, and practice of the scholarship of engagement in social sciences and related disciplines, including its pedagogical, administrative, political, cultural, and social context. The course supports the efforts to institutionalize civic engagement, liberal education, and service learning at UH Mānoa. Therefore, as a student enrolled in SOCS 385, you will have the opportunity to participate in outreach and professional development activities through your class work. The course will also help you plan, implement, and evaluate a service-learning/community-research project of your own.

PREREQUISITES: To enroll in SOCS 385, you must make arrangement to perform community research through an academically approved service-learning project. Find information about logistics and descriptions of some of our larger programs at the service learning section of the CSS website for the Program for Civic Engagement: http://servicelearning.socialsciences.hawaii.edu/ (linked on the Laulima site for SOCS 385). Several additional opportunities exist and special arrangements can be made. Your service learning can take place either (1) directly through SOCS 385, in which case you set up your community project in cooperation with the SOCS 385 instructor; or (2) through another UHM course, which will then be the “primary course,” for which SOCS 385 will be considered a support course.

CREDITS: SOCS 385 can be repeated twice to a total of three credits.

RESOURCES:
Handouts and online materials.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Ulla Hasager, Director of Civic Engagement for the College of Social Sciences, Ethnic Studies Department, University of Hawaii at Mānoa. Office: George Hall 305. Consultation: Tuesdays through Thursdays 12:30-5pm, and by appointment. Phone and email: 808 956 4218, 808 330 1276, ulla@hawaii.edu.

REQUIREMENTS AND VENUES

SOCS 385 is conducted as a hybrid, seminar-style course. After an initial individual consultation with the instructor, the class work primarily consists in your service-learning/community-research work, regular online class work, some of which will be substituted with monthly class/individual meetings for students on Oʻahu. You are also required to participate in an activity (online or in person) that gives you an opportunity to experience professional development in the field of civic engagement.

In-class MEETINGS take place in George Hall 301 (Ethnic Studies Resource Room), unless otherwise instructed. The schedule of meetings is tentatively set to 5-7 pm on the third Mondays of the month (September through December). At the class meetings and online, you will work with students from a number of different disciplines involved in service-learning projects. Online, we work at our Laulima webpage: https://laulima.hawaii.edu/portal. To log in, use your usual UH login ID and password.

The specific REQUIREMENTS for individual SOCS 385 students vary according to the requirements set by the instructor of the primary course, and/or by the administrators of the specific service-learning project that you are involved in.
MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:
In order to earn credit for SOCS 385, you must
- Take contact with the SOCS 385 instructor to get started on class work, and set up/confirm your service-learning project.
- Comply with paperwork requirements for service learning. Please see http://servicelearning.socialsciences.hawaii.edu/pages/forms.html
- Participate in and/or help out with a professional meeting, institute, workshop or similar. Options to complete this requirement in person or online will be announced.
- Access the Laulima class website twice weekly to check announcements and participate in class work such as research, discussions and minor online research assignments.
- Weekly write and post journals describing and analyzing your service-learning experience.
- Write a final reflective journal (2000 words), including background research, due 12/8 electronically.
- Complete your service-learning/community research obligations (default: minimum 25 hours)
- Evaluate the course and service site.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

STUDENTS ENROLLED UNDER PREREQUISITE 1 (taking SOCS 385 as a stand-alone course) need only fulfill the minimum requirements.

STUDENTS ENROLLED UNDER PREREQUISITE 2 will be given additional assignments to earn class credit for SOCS 385 depending on the scope, weight, and reward for the work with the community in the primary course. Additional assignments can include research, documentation, assessment, evaluation, or other tasks, with the aim of improving student-specific learning outcomes. Agreement on workload will be set up at the beginning of the semester at our individual meeting.

TO GET STARTED

MEET WITH THE INSTRUCTOR: To determine your specific requirements, arrange or confirm your specific service-learning project, and fill out the necessary paper work for the class, including a waiver, please contact the SOCS 385 instructor, before you begin your service project. Please contact the instructor as soon as possible and before 9/12/14.

REGISTRATION: After the close of general registration (9/3/14), a special sign-up procedure has to be followed. Please e-mail the instructor as soon as possible and no later than 9/15/14, to request registration for the class. Include the following information: Your name, student ID, hawaii.edu e-mail address, phone number, and service-learning project, if known. If you are enrolling under prerequisite 2 (see above), please include information about your primary course (CRN, alpha, number, and instructor's name, department, phone and e-mail) and attach a copy of your syllabus. Part-time students will need to pay the balance at that time. For students already carrying 12 credits or more, there are no additional tuition or fees. (Please note that Outreach College credits (including many online courses) do not count towards the 12 credits administratively).