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 education all benefit from this relationship. It is considered the best practice of engaged learning.

SOCIAL SCIENCES 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 the College of Social Sciences (CSS) at the University of Hawai‘i at 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 related to the College of Social Sciences' Program for Civic Engagement. 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/ or call the program director, who also teaches this course. 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 class, which will then be the “primary class,” for which SOCS 385 will be considered a support course.

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


INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Ulla Hasager, Director of Civic Engagement for the College of Social Sciences; faculty with the Department of Ethnic Studies, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. Offices: George Hall 305 and Dean Hall 7. Consultation: M 12-1pm (GRG 305); TR 2-5pm, W 10am-5pm (Dean 7); and by appointment either place. Phone: 808 956 4218, 808 330 1276. Email: ulla@hawaii.edu.

REQUIREMENTS AND VENUES

SOCS 385 is conducted as a hybrid, seminar-style course. After an initial individual consultation with the instructor and identification of service-learning site and project, the class work primarily consists in your service-learning/community-research work, and regular online class work, some of which will be substituted with regular class meetings for students on O‘ahu. You are also required to participate in at least one 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 Dean Hall 5/6 (ACCESS Lounge), unless otherwise instructed. Class meetings will be scheduled to accommodate the availability of participating students. 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.

STUDENTS ENROLLED UNDER PREREQUISITE 1 (doing service learning and taking SOCS 385 as a stand-alone course) need only fulfill the minimum requirements (see below).

STUDENTS ENROLLED UNDER PREREQUISITE 2 (doing service learning through another UHM (primary) class supported by SOCS 385) 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 class. 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 meetings.

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
- participate in and help out with at least one 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 (no length requirement)
- write a final reflective journal (2000 words), including background research, due 12/9 electronically
- complete your service-learning/community research obligations (default: minimum 25 hours)
- evaluate the course and service site(s).

GETTING STARTED

MEET WITH THE INSTRUCTOR: To determine your specific requirements, arrange or confirm your specific service-learning project, and fill out the necessary paperwork 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 September 7.

REGISTRATION: After the close of general registration, a special sign-up procedure has to be followed. Please email the instructor to request registration for the class. Include the following information: Your name, student ID number and hawaii.edu e-mail address, phone number, and service-learning plans, if known. If you are enrolling under prerequisite 2 (see above), please include information about your primary class (CRN, alpha, number, and instructor's name, and email) 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 administratively towards the 12 credits).