

Virtual Global Citizenship: Integrating Academic Service-Learning In An Online Anthropology Course

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Introduction

- Teaching online social sciences since 2001
- Developed and taught two (2) fully online academic service-learning courses
- 2010 World Cultures; 2011 Global Social Change
- How to merge two powerful pedagogies – distance learning & academic service-learning
- To meet needs of Berkeley College student population.

What is Service-Learning?

“...a teaching and learning approach that integrates community service with academic study to enrich learning, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.”

(National Commission on Service-Learning 2002)

Online ASL – Few Benefit

- Fall, 2009: 5.6 million college students – at least one online course. Nearly 30% students take at least one course online.
- Growth rate of online enrollment >10x overall rate for all college enrollment
- *E-service not keeping pace with growth of distance learning. Few online students benefit from community engaged learning (Sloan Consortium 2010)*

Benefits of Academic Service-Learning

-“High Impact” educational practices give historically underserved students a boost – higher grades, higher retention (Kuh 2008).

Berkeley College Student Population

- 34% First generation to attend college
 - 27.4% Hispanic
 - 27.3% Black

Many work full-time jobs – fully online

The Challenge: How To Give Online Students Benefits of ASL

How to give community service experience to multiple students in multiple locations?

- Placement-based (distributed learning) - individual placements at non-profits in student’s own community. Not a good fit.
- Project-based ASL – One project that student teams can do completely online. My choice.
- Bring the service partner to the online course

How Do I Do This From Mexico?!



Finding A Service Partner

- Involved with several non-profits
- Partnership with a “good fit”
- What is the partner’s needs (other than \$\$)?
- Can students provide the service? Will they learn beneficial skills/experience?
- Does both partner’s mission and service project connect to the course curriculum and learning objectives/outcomes?

Casa de los Angeles

- Non-profit daycare center in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Started in 2000.
- Serves over 100 children in two locations.
- Mothers work one hour for each day child is at the center.
- Medical care, food bank, transitional housing.
- <http://youtu.be/Qh-Lx16VSE4>

The Best Fit: Course & Service

1. Spring, 2010 – SOC 205 OLS World Cultures
Service Project: Create an web log (blog) for Casa de los Angeles.
2. Winter, 2011 – SOC 415 OLS Global Social Change
Service Project: Research and create a grants database for Casa de los Angeles.

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate understanding and respect for human differences and develop new ways of thinking about self and others.
- Use a social science perspective to understand the processes of globalization.
- Successfully interact with other learners, faculty, and materials by using information technology to express and share ideas, debate, and acquire creative problem solving skills.
- Learn how to take social action to make a difference in the world.

Course Development: Key Components of Service-Learning

- **Academic Component**—service has a **connection to the academic content** of the course.
- **Service Component**—Students do service-learning activities that meet an **identified community need**.
- **Reflection/Connection Component**— students have **structured opportunities to reflect** on their experience and to articulate how the service connects to the course curriculum.

Course Requirements

• Reflective Journal	120 points
• Discussion Forums	100 points
• Service-Project	<u>200 points</u>
Total	420 pts.

Blackboard – Course Mgt. System

The screenshot displays a Blackboard course management system interface with the following items:

- Syllabus**: Click here to view the syllabus.
- What is Academic Service Learning?**: This is an Academic Service-Learning course. Click to read more about ASL.
- The Academic Service-Learning Project**: Click here to read about the service project for Casa de los Angeles.
- Meet Our Service-Learning Partner!**: Introducing our service-learning partner, *Casa de los Angeles* (House of Angels), San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.
- Reflective Journal**
- Blogger: How To & Tutorials**
- Team Assignments**: Click here to see your assigned team for the service project.
- Course Calendar**: click here for a course calendar. You may wish to print out a copy.
- Grading Rubrics**

Academic Component:
Direct Connection To Course

Place the service partner's work in social & cultural context.

- Economic systems are part of every culture. How has the economic situation in Mexico been impacted by globalization, trade and migration?
- Impact of migration of males to U.S. and expatriate U.S.A.-ians and Canadians to San Miguel de Allende
- Effect on families, especially women and children?
- How will the service project help our service partner better serve the community?

Service Component—students engage in a set of community-based learning activities that meet an **identified community need**.

SOC 205 World Cultures

- Four student teams; Four sample blogs
- Posts related to ongoing activities of the organization.
- Posts to educate about poverty in Mexico.

Team Discussion Forums

↓ [Week 5 - Team Discussion](#)
[Deadline: May 9th](#)

Ok, let's get going on constructing the blog. Your tasks for this week,, Divide these tasks up among your group members, please. Deadline Sunday May 9th at midnight!

1. Post a short introduction on the blog. Example: "Welcome to the Casa de los Angeles blog! The purpose of this blog is to....."
2. Post a video about Casa. They have one on youtube. I will post directions on how to embed a youtube video.
3. Stories - Post a story of one family whose child is at Casa. Post a second story of one of the volunteers. Take info from Casa website.
4. Post news about what what Casa is planning. See their website for info and pics. Write a post for each upcoming event.
5. Add a posting on the right hand margin with a link that directs people to the Good Search search engine. Casa has an account and everytime you use it, Casa gets 1 penny! I will post directions on how to add a gadget.
6. Write a post about the following: Casa celebrated The Day of the Child yesterday, Nov 30th. They have posted photos on facebook. If you are a member, consider friending them so you can access their photos of Day of the Child.
7. Any other posting you decide would be effective!!!

Reflection/Connection Component—structured opportunities to reflect on their experience and how the service connects to the course curriculum.

Reflective Journal
 Reflection *before, during and after* the academic service-learning experience.

Sample Questions for Reflection

- *What has surprised you about the service partner and the people they serve?*
- *Describe and discuss a societal issue or problem that is impacting this community? What do you think are the root causes of this problem?*
- *What did you learn about yourself and others? Has the experience changed you? How?*

Reflections

"I learned that as global citizens, we have to tear down the walls that separate us to face global challenges. I am becoming a more engaged and informed global citizen."

"Global citizenship is when you feel like you're a part of all countries in the world. When they are suffering, you want to help them."

- *“Anyone could have a hard time in their life and be in the same situation. Sometimes we don’t look at what we have in common with others in that type of situation or with the homeless; it doesn’t take much to end up in their shoes.”*
- *“I have learned that we are only as good as our neighbor. We must offer a helping hand to one another. I am committed to bridging the gap of cultural differences to effect change for the greater good of all.”*

Finished Service Project – Blog



CASA DE LOS ANGELES
You are an angel

Casa de los Angeles is a community of caring people who gather to nurture children, serving the needs of the less fortunate, treating each person with dignity and respect as they work to make a better life for themselves and the community as a whole. We are located in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

[Home](#) | [Under the Pepper Tree](#) | [Volunteer Stories](#) | [Meet the Casa Families](#)

Thursday, July 8, 2010

The Beginnings

From 1995 to 2000 I worked at Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois. During that time I was Campus Minister, responsible for outreach, serving the needs of people in Chicago, Appalachia, Arkansas and Querretaro, Mexico with groups of university students. Each time I traveled to Mexico, I felt drawn to consider what I could do to help the poor in this beautiful and compelling country. How could it be that this country which shares a border with the United States could be so poor, so invisible to that rich country to the North? Thus began the search for the place and the service to be provided. During 1998 and 1999 I traveled to Central Mexico and decided on the town of San Miguel de Allende but still was not sure of just what the work would be. The questions posed to more than 100 women of the area was, "What would be a helpful program offered to your family? The answer every time was, "Daycare. I need a place for my children so that while I am at work they aren't locked at home alone." The work was decided by the women of the community.

About Casa de los Angeles

Join the Casa Online Community!

[Share this on Facebook](#)
[Tweet this](#)

Team Thank You Letters To Service Partner

- *“After we began our service learning project, we realized that what we were doing, creating, and engaging in was more than just a school assignment. What we were involved in was something that we would remember forever; we were actually helping change the lives of others! “*
- *“ The service project has enriched our learning experience about World Cultures and the culture of Mexico. It has also taught us responsibility and allowed us to help strengthen a community!”*

Dear Students of Soc 205 ASL Online,

On behalf of the families we serve in Central Mexico, we would like to thank you for all that you have done to help . . . for the time and energy you have given to your work on our behalf.

You give us all hope for the future because you have hearts for service and will do remarkable things in your lives. Know that there is an open invitation to you to come and visit us . . . esta es tu casa Mexicana!

Muchas gracias,

José Miguel Hernández Chávez, Director

Donna Quathammer, Founder

For Student Resumes

- Social Media Blog Project for Nonprofit Daycare Center, Casa de los Angeles, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Academic Service-Learning Course, World Cultures, 2010.
 - Participated in an educational experience that integrated the academic curriculum of a World Cultures course with real-life active participation in a service project.
 - With a student team, I helped plan and design a prototype of a web log for a nonprofit daycare center in Mexico.

Images of women and children of San Miguel de Allende
by Kimberly Francois
"Left Behind In Mexico",
Francois Photography

Click on the link below to view photographs.

http://www.francoisphotography.com/html_gallery.cfm?menu_itemID=745427&load=html&parentID=741644

Works Cited

Kuh, G. (2008) *High-Impact Educational Practices: What they are, who has access to them and why they matter*. Washington, D.C.: AAC&U

National Commission on Service Learning. (2002). *The power of service learning*. Newton, MA: Author.

Sloan Consortium (2010) "Class Differences: Online Education in the United States," 2010, Sloan Consortium.

Resources:

- National Campus Compact *Provides information, resources, and syllabi about service-learning.*
<http://www.compact.org/category/resources/>
- National Service-learning Clearinghouse *Provides information, resources, and syllabi about service-learning. Includes a national list serve for service-learning.*
<http://www.servicelearning.org/>