

SOCY398S: Education Service Learning
0101: Monday
Spring 2009
1 credit

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SYLLABUS

Service Learning provides an opportunity to assist a community organization, while earning academic credit. It can be distinguished from volunteer work because it is intended to benefit both the organization and the individuals who provide the service. Earning academic credit is appropriate because students are assigned readings about issues related to the work they are doing and asked to reflect on their experience through group discussions and short papers. Service learning allows you to experience the reality of course issues outside of the traditional classroom. The work you do as tutors will afford you the opportunity to work inside a public school and learn more about the issues that schools face in educating our children.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Meet with your assigned student(s) once per week at Thurgood Marshall Elementary School for the Fall 2008 Semester. The tutoring sessions run from 3:30 to 4:30 pm. During this hour you will be assisting you student(s) with fundamental math and reading skills.
- Carefully read the Tutoring Manual.
- Keep a weekly journal about your experience. This should include observations and questions you would like to raise at our meetings.
- Complete assigned readings for discussion at bi-weekly meetings.
- Regular attendance at all tutoring sessions. This is important. Part of the goal is to establish a consistent relationship with the student you are assigned to. Sporadic attendance makes the tutoring experience less effective. It also tells the student that they cannot depend on you for consistent support and reduces the potential for a mentoring relationship to be formed.
- Attend bi-weekly meeting. These meetings will provide opportunities for mentors to meet with Sean Calloway, the School Social Worker and other Thurgood Marshall teachers and staff. You will also have an opportunity to ask questions about the structure of the school.
- Observe all guidelines and rules established by administrators at Thurgood Marshall Elementary School.

TEXT: **A Hope in the Unseen**. Ron Suskind. 1999. Available on Amazon.com.

Guidelines for mentoring established by Thurgood Marshall School:

- Maintain weekly contact with your student. Please notify the Sociology Undergraduate Office by 10:00 on tutoring days if you are unable to attend a scheduled session. This will give us sufficient time to notify the school.
- Be dedicated and dependable in trying to assist you student in achieving their personal and academic goals.
- Base your relationship with your child on respect for them and their family.
- Notify the school's counselor/social worker about any major concerns. Sean Calloway can be reached through the main number at the school 202-576-6900.
- Meet with your mentee only in a school or school approved setting and only during the regular school day as stated in his/her parents permission form.

COURSE GRADE

- Your grade for this course will be based on the following:
- Regular attendance at tutoring sessions (70%)
- Participation in the bi-weekly meetings and discussion (15%)
- Submission of your journal entries and a short reflective paper that incorporates assigned readings in relationship to your tutoring experience.

A school calendar will be handed out informing you of what days the school will be closed. We will try to meet on several of those days for our discussions.

REMINDER: Drivers Please exchange phone numbers with the students in your carpool so that you can let them know if you are unable to drive. Please give enough notice to allow your passengers to make alternative arrangements.

DIRECTIONS:

Thurgood Marshall Elementary School

Tel.# 202-576-6900

Directions from the University of Maryland

South on Route #1

Left on Eastern Avenue (eastern Avenue is the boundary line between Maryland and Washington, D.C.) The road is not well marked. It is approximately 4 miles down route #1. Once you pass a small circle-like structure in the road Eastern Avenue is the next traffic light. If you miss Eastern Avenue, you can go left on South Dakota and it will also take you into Eastern Avenue. **Stay on Eastern Avenue until you cross Bladensburg Road. After you cross Bladensburg Road take the first left. Then take the first right into the parking lot of the school.**

Assignment #1: Please write a one to two page description about your expectations about the tutoring/mentoring experience you are going to have at Thurgood Marshall this semester. What are your expectations about the school, the children, and what you hope to accomplish? You can include any past tutoring experiences that have influenced the expectations you have for this program.