GHANA SERVICE LEARNING EXPERIENCE
Instructors: Elsie Gaisie-Ahiabu and Albert Walls
Language of Instruction: English
UO Credits: 4-6
Contact Hours - Class Meetings: 6
Total Hours of Student Engagement (THSE) in all course activities: 120 - 180

ACCRA, GHANA

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Students will be placed in internship/service learning assignments at various non-governmental organizations (NGOs), healthcare providers, research institutes, and other local agencies, referred to as ‘attachments’ in Ghana, that are designed to complement the global health and development emphasis of the program, as well as to meet the individual interest of each student. The actual placement of each student will be based on his/her unique academic background, training, skills, and personal interests, all of which should be identified in the Resumes and Personal Statements of Interests submitted by each student. The types of attachments available to students are numerous and include areas as diverse as health; environment; family planning; women’s empowerment; new information and communication technologies; agriculture; education; literacy; culture and arts; tourism; politics; economics and business; mass media, and others. Internship duties and responsibilities vary depending on the specific needs of the organization. However, they can include writing, researching, job shadowing, interviewing, advising, teaching, community organizing, mentoring, training, fundraising, photographing, and a variety of other alternatives.

This course will also include a number of site visits, weekend field excursions, and day-long community service projects that will serve to enhance the service and learning emphases of the course. Students will also be given information about ethics, safety and professionalism in the context of their service learning/internship placement.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
The objective of this course is to help students develop skills in critical thinking and problem solving within the context of the challenges facing a NGOs, healthcare service providers, research institutes, and other local agencies charged with the responsibility of addressing the various needs of the Ghanaian population. Its primary focus is to assist student interns in ‘learning how best to learn’ from their experiences as service learners in the Republic of Ghana.
INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY
The course, based on classroom discussion of general and specific internship/service learning issues and experiences, will meet for one hour, one day per week. Along with the classroom discussions, students will be participating in their internships for a minimum of 20 hours per week. During the 6-week period, students must spend a minimum of 120 academic hours at their internship. Students may also choose to devote additional time to their internship in order to enhance the service learning aspect of their experience. Students will be required to keep a journal of their experiences.

METHOD OF EVALUATION (GRADING)
Students will be graded on their completion of the minimum 120 academic hours of their service-learning/internship (50%); consistent class attendance and participation (10%); and the completion of a final paper which synthesizes weekly classroom discussions, and their overall internship experience (40%).

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 (AW/EG)  Get Acquainted
Course Overview
Getting Started
   Ethics
   Goals
   Hours
   Confidentiality
   Supervision Structure
   When you have a problem…
Key History and Demographics of Ghana
Health Sector: Special Concerns

Assignment: Handbook Chapters 1, 2 and 6; Health Placement Articles

Week 2 (AW)  Adjusting and Supervision
Sharing of Goal Sheets
Cultural Values and Adjustment Strategies
The ABC’s of Culture
Utilizing Supervision

Assignment: Handbook Chapters 3 and 7

Week 3 (AW)  Further Integration into the Ghanaian Workplace
Common Stressors and Problems
Utilizing Supervision
Potential Solutions to Problems

Assignment: Handbook Chapters 9 and 10

Week 4 (EG)  Diversity
Culturally Competent Work Practice  
Knowing Yourself in Relation to Diversity  

Assignment: Handbook Chapter 8  

Week 5 (EG)  Integrating Class and Field Work Within a New Global Analysis  
Critical Analysis  
Student Presentations (class to field / USA to Ghana)  

Assignment: Handbook Chapter 11 and Oral Presentation  

Week 6 (AW/EG)  Termination  
Lessons Learned  
Tasks  
Planning Ends  
Utilizing skills for the future  

Assignment: Handbook Chapter 12  

REQUIRED TEXT  
Walls & Walls (2014), The Service Learning and Internship Handbook for Foreign Students and Volunteers in Ghana  

SUGGESTED COURSE READINGS  
A. Danquah, Ghana’s Cultural Heritage in Retrospect.  (Accra: Super Trade, 2008)  