

Public Service as Responsible Citizenship (40:834:201) [3 credits]

Course Description

Public Service as Responsible Citizenship is designed to encourage students' current and future commitments to the common good. Students will explore their personal values with respect to leadership service and diversity through critical analysis of social issues, reflection and practice. By the end of the course, students should be able to articulate an understanding of public service and apply theories and models of service and leadership to an issue of their choosing. This course critically examines the community service approach to "public work" and seeks to understand how service might be more effective in improving community life. Students will learn basic strategies and tactics utilized by individuals, groups, and organizations to maintain and improve the quality of life in their communities.

Learning Objectives

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Have a clear understanding of the notion of public service and its application within our modern democratic society
- Be able to apply theories of citizenship and social contract to current public service practices
- Be able to connect the theories of public service to practical public service experiences by becoming engaged within the community

Requirements

Requirements will vary by instructor and may include:

- Class sessions and discussions: Students will actively engage in class discussions.
- Students will actively participate in volunteer service opportunities.

Schedule / Outline of Topics

- Week 1: Introduction and Overview
- Week 2: History and Extent of Public Service
- Week 3: Public, Private, and Nonprofit Sectors – Part 1
- Week 4: Public, Private, and Nonprofit Sectors – Part 2
- Week 5: The Recent Erosion of Public Service
- Week 6: The Effects of Tragedies
- Week 7: Voluntary Public Service Engagement
- Week 8: Voting as Service
- Week 9: Making a Difference in the Nonprofit and Private Sector
- Week 11: Class Volunteer Service Opportunity
- Week 12: Corporate Social Responsibility
- Week 13: Class Volunteer Service Opportunity
- Week 14: Final

Texts / Materials / Resources

The selection of textbooks and readings will vary by instructor. Listed below are some of the possible textbooks, materials, and resources an instructor may select for this course:

Jonathan M. Tisch & Karl Weber, *Citizen You: How Social Entrepreneurs Are Changing the World*, 2011, Three Rivers Press, New York
ISBN 978-0-307-58849-4