

PART 4:
Current CBL/CBR at Clark

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Current Community-Based Learning & Research Courses at Clark

Listed below is a sampling of Community-based learning and research courses at Clark University. The variety of courses illustrate that Community-based learning is not limited to one or two disciplines.

COMMUNICATION & CULTURE

COMM050: Communication and Culture in Main South (First Year Seminar)

Sarah Michaels

This seminar covers the same content as COMM101 which is a requirement for the Communication & Culture major and minor. However, this course will be run as a hands-on, discussion-based seminar, with students doing original research and taking an active role in class discussion. All of the ideas and tools introduced in the course will be put to use in investigations of communication and culture in the Main South Neighborhood of Worcester. We will investigate local media, public art, and both formal and informal learning in the neighborhood. Seminar participants will have a chance to collaborate with neighborhood students on multi-media projects, contributing to a community-based website. The course will be interdisciplinary, drawing on psychological, anthropological, sociological, technological, aesthetic, cinematic, semiotic, and cultural studies points of view and methodologies. There will be a particular emphasis on the roles of talk, text, and image in social life and how they relate to power, access, and equity in the world. Fulfills the Values Perspective requirement. OFFERED EVERY YEAR.

EDUCATION

EDI95: Field Experience: Special Education and Human Services

Nathaniel Chase Seale

Provide direct, supervised experience within educational and human-services agencies. Placements are based upon students' experience, goals and academic backgrounds. Placement possibilities include schools, mental-health centers, institutions, the courts, substance-abuse centers, crisis agencies and group homes. A weekly seminar provides the opportunity for students to analyze their field-work experience. OFFERED EVERY YEAR.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

ENI03: The Sustainable University

Jennie Stephens

This course explores the environmental challenges facing society by focusing in on the college campus and the evolving movement of campus sustainability. Students will contribute to

ongoing projects at Clark, including developing and maintaining a campus greenhouse gas inventory, while also engaging in new efforts to promote sustainable practices and sustainable education at Clark and in the surrounding Worcester community. OFFERED EVERY YEAR (FALL SEMESTER).

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

SPANI 17: Field Work in the Latino Community

Constance Montross

This course offers students an opportunity to work in an agency or project serving the Latino community in Worcester. Students keep a journal on the experience in which they examine language, culture and related problems of the bilingual community. Students read works of Latino literature and write short papers in Spanish. OFFERED EVERY YEAR.

GEOGRAPHY

GEOG 110: Intro to Quantitative Methods (Community Based Research Course)

Gil Pontius

This community-based research course teaches skills students will use throughout their careers. Students collect field data, enter the data into a computer, perform statistical analysis, interpret the results, and present the results in written and oral forms. All undergraduate students receive credit for a Formal Analysis perspective and Geography majors receive credit for a skills course. OFFERED EVERY YEAR.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & SOCIAL CHANGE

ID131: Local Action/Global Change

Various Instructors

Introduces students to activism in a broad sense: as both a tool for political action and a mechanism for social and/or economic change. International and community development are discussed as forms of activism. Texts focus on activism not only as it is understood and practiced in the United States, but also as it is found in other parts of the world. Students participate in a project at the community or wider level in order to learn about how activism works practically. Students will experience first-hand the opportunities and challenges to affecting change, protecting human rights or raising public awareness. OFFERED EVERY YEAR.

MANAGEMENT

MGMT100: The Art and Science of Management

Barbara Bigelow

The Art and Science of Management introduces students to management. They learn about the primary functions of management, the structures and processes that facilitate communication among functions, and the complex environment in which organizations operate. The course uses a wide array of teaching approaches, including cases, experiential exercises, dialogue, small group projects, and community-based learning. Student groups work together to complete a community-based learning project during the course of the semester. The nature of the work will be defined by the needs of the agency. Past groups have planned fundraisers on campus for local nonprofits or organized direct service opportunities for the campus. A final group paper applies the concepts from the course while an individual reflection paper assesses the individual's experience with community-based learning. OFFERED EVERY SEMESTER.

MGMT255: Navigating Nonprofit Dilemmas to Create Social Change

Katya Fels Smyth

This course will introduce students to the "inflection points" in building a sustainable social venture – those moments or stages of development in the life cycle of a social venture that are characterized by debate, tension, and ambiguity even among the most experienced practitioners and observers in the field. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the multiple stakeholders who have a say in the provision of services and the creation of social value, and will be exposed to examples of how good intent can lead to inferior programming or failure in the absence of planning and mindful adaptation. The course has a community engagement component that spans the semester and provides a balance to the often tidy prescriptions and descriptions of nonprofit practice. Prerequisite: MGMT/ENT215 OR MGMT/ENT245 OR MGMT011. OFFERED EVERY YEAR.

PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC232 - Research in Community

Esteban Cardemil

This course provides a hands-on experience with conducting community/clinical psychology research in the area of childhood mental health. Students will be actively involved in a research project in which we will examine the relationships among race, ethnicity, and mental-health issues in school children in the Worcester school district. In order to maximize the experience on this project, students will participate in a weekly class in which the theoretical underpinnings of the project are discussed. Students will also be required to write a final paper and present a poster at Academic Spree Day. OFFERED EVERY SEMESTER.

Current Community-Based Research Projects and Resources at Clark

Here are a couple of examples of community-based research projects at Clark. For information on other projects, contact the Mosakowski Institute or the George Perkins Marsh Institute.

The HERO Program

The Human-Environment Regional Observatory-Central Massachusetts (HERO-CM) research program provides opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to analyze the causes and consequences of global environmental changes at local scales in faculty-led research projects. This program permits students to conduct research in interdisciplinary and inter-institutional projects. Current HERO research is funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Thoreau Foundation, and the O'Connor '78 Fund.

See more information about this community-based research program at: <http://www.clarku.edu/departments/hero/> or contact Professor Colin Polsky.

The HOPE Coalition

The Healthy Options for Prevention and Education (HOPE) Coalition is a youth-adult partnership consisting of 18 organizations in Worcester, including youth serving organizations, mental health agencies, community based health care centers, the City of Worcester, and the Worcester Public Schools. Fifteen diverse teenagers form the HOPE Coalition Peer Leadership program and are integral members of this Coalition, participating in data collection, program design, and community outreach. The HOPE Strategic Plan HOPE addresses four key areas of concern: Increasing Youth Leadership in the Community, Integrating Mental Health and Substance Prevention into Youth Settings, Increasing Access to After-School Programs and Services, and Increasing School-Community Partnerships and Coordination around Health Education.

See more information about this community-based research program at: <http://www.clarku.edu/departments/idce/HOPEcoalition.htm> or contact Professor Laurie Ross.

Mosakowski Institute for Public Enterprise

Clark is fortunate to have the Mosakowski Institute on campus whose mission is to “improve through the successful mobilization of use-inspired research the effectiveness of government and other institutions in addressing social concerns.”ⁱⁱ The Mosakowski Institute hosts conferences and events to promote use-inspired research and help to bridge the gap between academic researchers and policy-makers.

In addition, the Mosakowski Institute supports on-going research projects and student internships and collaborates with other research centers at Clark including the George Perkins March Institute, the Jacob Hiatt Center for Urban Education, the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, and the Clark Labs for Cartographic Technologies and Geographic Analysis.

George Perkins Marsh Institute

The George Perkins Marsh Institute conducts collaborative and interdisciplinary research on human-environment relationships within a wide range of research themes such as risks and hazards, the human dimensions of global environmental change, resource and environmental policy, industrialization and globalization, and the development and application of Geographic Information Science across multiple disciplines. Several centers are housed within the institute including [The Center for Risk and Security](#), [The Center for Technology, Environment and Development](#), and [The Center for Community-Based Development](#).ⁱⁱ

Worcester Area Agencies

Below is a sampling of Worcester area agencies which may be useful to contact about potential partnerships when designing Community-Based Learning and Research courses at Clark. Many of these organizations are familiar with and/or already work with Clark students and faculty.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse	Henry Lee Willis Center
Community Development	Main South Community Development Corporation Stone Soup Collective & Community Resource Center Ex-Prisoners Organizing for Community Advancement (EPOCA)
Domestic Violence	Abby's House DayBreak Resources/YWCA Rape Crisis Center of Central MA
Elder Services	Donna Kay Rest Home
Environment	Ecotarium Regional Environmental Council (REC)
Food/Meals	Dismas House Jeremiah's Inn Kid's Café
Health/Medical	Pernet Family Health Services Planned Parenthood of Central MA UMass Medical Center
Homelessness	Frances Perkins Home Jeremiah's Inn
Housing	Main South Community Development Corporation Worcester Housing Authority
Immigration/Cultural Organizations	Catholic Charities Centro Las Americas Lutheran Refugee and Immigration Services St. Peter's ESL program
Mental Health	Alternatives Unlimited, Inc. Bridges of Central MA
Teen/Youth Services	Boys and Girls Club St. Peter's Catholic Church (after school program) YMCA

Role of the CEV Center

The CEV Center is here to assist and support faculty with the development, implementation and continuation of community-based learning course(s). Please contact the CEV Program Coordinator at 508-421-3704 for more information. You are not required to work through the CEV – in fact, many faculty have a long history in Worcester and prefer to work independently. In the interest of facilitating good communication, the CEV Center asks that you keep us informed of your course and any community involvement component. This helps to avoid overlapping projects within the University. Additionally, the CEV Center is required by the University and our funders to track numbers of students and the hours they spend in service or community-based learning courses.

For faculty seeking extra support in this process, there are many ways in which the CEV Center can be of assistance:

Course Development

- One-on-one consultations to review course goals and possible projects
- Syllabus revision/development
- Agency selection and development of community partnerships
- Assistance with planning the logistics of the community-based learning project, including student supervision
- Considering liability issues

Implementation

- Conducting student orientation and training sessions
- Troubleshooting
- Providing reflection/analysis workshops for students
- Evaluating student learning and program success

On-going Support

- Workshops and forums for community-based learning faculty
- Facilitates the monthly Community Engagement Faculty Study & Discussion Group meetings
- Distributing information about upcoming workshops, events and conferences on the local, state and national level
- Resources about community-based learning, reflection and Worcester agencies are available for faculty and student use
- Publicity and recognition



NOTES

ⁱ Clark University Mosakowski Institute for Public Enterprise,
<http://www.clarku.edu/research/mosakowskiinstitute/index.cfm>.

ⁱⁱ Clark University Research Centers and Institutes, <http://www.clarku.edu/researchcenters.cfm>.