Instructor:
Angela D’Amour/Benji Bruneel
Office: KSC 207
Office Phone: 565-7089/565-6125
E-mail: adamour@westmont.edu/bbruneel@westmont.edu
Office Hours: Tues. 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. & Fri: 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. and other hours by appointment.

Course Description:
A reflective and critical approach to considering how the Potter’s Clay experience contributes to the Christian commitment to pursue justice and serve society.

Course Rationale:
This course utilizes in-class discussion and assigned reading in combination with in-field reflection to fulfill the Serving Society/Enacting Justice requirement of the general education program. This course is available as a one-credit course. Enrollment will be limited to 15 students. Student participation will be contingent upon the consent & signature of the instructor.

Relationship to the General Education Program:
In keeping with the College’s desire to connect classroom learning with outside endeavors, this course will challenge students to think critically about the Potter’s Clay experience. Through readings, discussion and focused reflection, this course brings students’ ministry involvement together with their academic pursuits in a way that will result in more compassionate scholars and more informed servants.

As a result of this experience, students will be able to:

1) Demonstrate an understanding of the cultural and economic differences that exist between Mexican and American people.
2) Identify effective communication strategies between Mexican and American people.
3) Articulate the importance of understanding cultures and people prior to cross-cultural service.
4) Discuss potential impacts of short-term service to communities with economic need.
5) Demonstrate awareness of oneself as a cultural being.
6) Ask questions of other service participants that encourage them to notice and name cultural differences that exist between Mexican and American individuals.
7) Recognize and respond to specific instances in which the opportunity to pursue justice presents itself in both Mexican and American contexts.

Course Requirements and Policies:
Logged hours:
Throughout the credit option, students will be required to keep a log of their service hours in Mexico. The hours of direct service must total at least 24 hours. These logs must be signed by a Potter’s Clay team leader. This log will be submitted to the instructor during the final experience summary session.

Prior to the service project:
Students will meet with the instructor and other students enrolled in the practicum at least four weeks prior to attending Potter’s Clay for a forty-five minute orientation session addressing the general guidelines of this credit option, including expectations and requirements concerning reading and written assignments prior to, during and after the project.

Three weeks prior to the service project, a ninety minute preparation session will be devoted to the discussion and consideration of cultural, ethnic and economic differences between Santa Barbara and Ensenada as well as the group goals and expectations. Students will come to this meeting having read excerpts from *The Art of Crossing Cultures*, by Craig Storti, and *Good Neighbors: Communicating with the Mexicans*, by John Condon. Students should come to this session with a two-page typed paper reflecting on *The Art of Crossing Cultures*. Students will draw upon these readings as the basis for the reflections shared in this meeting.

Another ninety minute preparation session will take place two weeks prior to the service project, during which students will reflect on their preparation for the service project in light of their further reading from *Foreign to Familiar*, by Sarah A. Lanier, and other appropriate readings as assigned by the instructor. This meeting will serve as a final discussion period upon the topics covered by the assigned readings as well as upon the reflections and preparation of the students for the service project.

During the service project:
Students must maintain a journal in which they make daily entries (for 5 days) of at least 300 words each, which will note events, experiences, observations and surprises that occur while involved in daily service. This journal will provide topics for discussion when the group reconvenes for a reflective conversation at the conclusion of the week. These journal entries, while naturally personal, should not be primarily biographical in nature, but rather should draw upon and connect to the readings and discussions done in preparation for the service project.

After the service project:
A final two-hour experience summary session will take place within thirty days after returning from Potter’s Clay. Student journals will be submitted at this session. Additionally, students will write a three- to five-page summary paper of their service experience addressing topics such as insights gained, self-discoveries, what one has discovered about working within the Ensenada community, what one has learned about the Christian’s responsibility to address injustice and inequity, and what lasting difference this experience will have upon the participant in their quest for justice. This paper will be due to the instructor at the final experience summary session. This session will involve the student participants in reflection upon the trip in a community setting, drawing upon one another’s insights and perspectives as a critical component of evaluation.
Grading:

This option will be graded pass/fail, based upon the following criteria:

1) Complete hours log representing time spent on direct service indicating a minimum of 24 hours of service.
2) Journal with five entries of at least 300 words representing and reflecting on each day of the service project experience
3) Satisfactory completion of assigned reading as noted through reflective paper and seminar participation
4) Active participation in discussion during preparation and experience summary sessions
5) Submission of an experience summary paper demonstrating personal growth and consideration of the questions raised through the experience

No incomplete grades will be issued for this credit option.

Sources:

