

Louisiana State University  
College of Agriculture

Spring 2010

**AGRI 2900 Directed Studies in Agricultural Leadership Development (3)**  
**3:00-6:00 pm Wednesday**  
**Blake Hall Classroom, Room 136**

**Course Description:** *Prereq: Permission of department. HRE 2723.* Faculty directed leadership development practicum in an agricultural-related activity or program intended to integrate academic learning with practice.

**Instructors**

Dr. Cathy Williams  
ARC Rector  
Blake Hall, 578-5938  
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**Community Partner**

Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Denise Reyes, Volunteer Coordinator  
225-383-7837, Extension 207  
[dreyes@svdpbr.com](mailto:dreyes@svdpbr.com)

Thrift Store  
1925 Staring Lane; 819-0460  
Brenda Rome, Manager

**Service-Learning**

AGRI 2900 is a service learning course.

Service-Learning is defined as a course-based, credit bearing educational experience in which students (a) participate in an organized service activity that meets identified community needs and (b) reflect on the service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of civic responsibility (from Bringle and Hatcher, 1995).

**Course Objectives**

Based on the goal of the leadership development foundation and prerequisite course, HRE 2723, the overall goal of this course is for students to **practice** the development of their leadership skills in a structured environment. At the end of the course, students will be able to

- Better apply basic concepts of leadership development.
- Evaluate their leadership strengths and weaknesses, including areas of growth.
- Evaluate the leadership skills in others, including areas of growth.

## Required materials

*Exploring Leadership: for college students who want to make a difference* (2nd Edition).  
Susan R. Komives, Nance Lucas, and Timothy R. McMahan (Jossey-Bass, 2006)

## Additional Materials:

Additional readings may be added to the calendar throughout the semester. Handouts will be presented to support course discussion areas during the term. All students are expected to have active LSU e-mail accounts and Moodle, and should be prepared to communicate with the professor using this technology. Students should regularly check the course website for class updates/assignments. The instructors will often make Power Points notes available online before each class. Students are expected to print out copies and bring them to each lecture.

## Course Requirements

1. With the exception of designated university holidays, class will meet every week. Students are expected to be in class to discuss their experiences.
2. Students are required to devote (and document) no fewer than 30 hours of service outside of class time. Students should complete 3 hours of service per week.
3. Students are required to keep a log of their weekly hours which must include the date and time. The log must be signed by the supervisor at the site in which their service is being completed. Log sheets must be turned in at the beginning of each class meeting.
4. Students are required to submit to the instructor a weekly journal entry summarizing their experiences for the week. The journal entry should be a maximum of one doubled-spaced page per week. The journal is due at the beginning of each class meeting. Late papers will be deducted two (2) points per day immediately following class time.
5. Students are required to secure instructor approval of their practicum plan of work.
6. Students are required to complete a formative and summative evaluation of their practicum.
7. Students are required to write a reflective paper explaining how their experiences relate to the five components of the relation leadership model.
8. Students will complete 2 projects that are congruent with course and site objectives.

## Grading Criteria

Grading for the course will be based on the following:

- |    |  |                                  |
|----|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. | Completion of hours  | 225 points (30% of grade)        |
| 2. | Weekly submission of journal entries<br>(10 journal entries at 15 points each) | 150 points (20% of grade)        |
| 3. | Reflection Paper and oral report   | 150 points (20% of grade)        |
| 4. | Projects 1 and 2   | <u>225 points</u> (30% of grade) |

Total Points

750

## **Grading scale**

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
<59%	F

## **Reflection**

Reflection is an important part of the experience gained in a service-learning class.

In this course, reflection will be accomplished in 3 ways:

1. Weekly journal entries. At the end of each week, students will write an essay to reflect on their experiences at the St. Vincent de Paul site and how these experiences relate to the principles of leadership they have learned in HRE 2723. The experiences should connect with the course content, and indicate an analysis of how they fit together. The instructor will provide direction and guidance for the reflections using the ORID Model. Also, questions will be provided for students to address in each journal reflection essay.
2. In class discussion sessions which will allow the students to share their experiences with other students in the class. These sessions will allow students, instructor and community partner an opportunity to share experiences with other students and learn from one another.
3. Final reflection paper and oral presentation. This final report, as indicated in the course requirements, will summarize their semester experiences and how they relate to the five components of the relation leadership model. The oral presentation will consist of the students sharing their experiences and reflections with each other and the community partner.

## **Projects**

1. Project 1 will include serving a meal at the Bishop Ott Men's Shelter during the 3<sup>rd</sup> class period. Students will plan the menu and work with the course instructors in purchasing the meal from an authorized vendor for the Agriculture Residential College.
2. Project 2 will include the planning, fundraising, ingredient purchase, and preparation of a meal for the Women and Children's Shelter at St. Vincent de Paul.

## **CLASS POLICIES**

### **Academic Integrity**

All LSU students are responsible for observing the highest standards of academic and personal integrity. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and ignorance is not an acceptable excuse. All cases of alleged academic misconduct will be referred to the Office of the Dean of Students. The Code of Student Conduct and information on avoiding plagiarism can be found on the Judicial Affairs website at <http://appl003.lsu.edu/slas/judicialaffairs.nsf/index>.

## **Student Responsibilities**

Students are all expected to be courteous during class, not doing things which are distracting to the guest presenters, instructors or other members of the class (including noisy late arrivals or early departures). All **CELL PHONES** should be **OFF** or on **SILENT**. Material presented in class will appear on quizzes, homework assignments, and exams. Students are responsible for all material and assignments presented in class (see a reliable classmate for class notes and announcements if you have missed class).

**Assignments** Assignments will be given in class. This is not an internet based course, so assignments and announcements about quizzes will not always be posted in Moodle.

**Moodle:** Students are required to check for class announcements and course materials via the Moodle application on PAWS.

## **Disability Statement**

Any student who, because of a disabling condition, requires some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements must obtain a letter outlining the necessary accommodations needed from The Office of Disability Services, 112 Johnston Hall. All information regarding disabilities (registering with the ODS, obtaining accommodation letters, offered resources for students with disability, etc.) is available on The Office of Disability Services website [www.lsu.edu/disability](http://www.lsu.edu/disability).

## **Amendments to Syllabus**

The instructors reserve the right to make changes and adjustments to the course syllabus at anytime throughout the semester. In which case, the instructor will provide written notice of the changes (via Moodle) and review the changes during regularly scheduled class meetings.

## **Attendance/Participation**

Students are required to attend and participate in all class sessions, as well as to attend all pre-scheduled site visits. If the student is not able to meet their scheduled visit, they must contact the site supervisor by phone to let them know (Brenda Rome, Thrift Store Manager). Please refer to PS-22, available on LSU's web site for general policies on student absences. However, no points are assigned based on attendance in class. Students are responsible for making up any work missed.

## Tentative Topics

Week 1: Visit St. Vincent de Paul Campus sites

Week 2: What is Service Learning? Reflection information, Finalize site schedules. Initiate Project 1.

Week 3: Michael Acaldo, CEO of St. Vincent de Paul; class discussion/reflection on past week's experiences; finalize plans for Project 1.

Week 4: Serve meal at Bishop Ott Shelter (class will meet at Blake Hall and travel as a group to the shelter)

Week 5: Class discussion/reflection about past week's experiences.  
Review Principles of Leadership (from HRE 2723)  
Begin Project 2. Students will form committees for the project.  
Class activity: Group member styles – What is your style?

Week 6: Class discussion/reflection on past week's experiences; Progress reports on Project 2.  
Class topic: Fund raising opportunities for service learning project

Week 7: Class discussion/reflection on past week's experiences; Progress reports on Project 2.  
Class topic: Benefits of service learning – for the student and the community.

Week 8: Class discussion/reflection on past week's experiences; Progress reports on Project 2.  
Class topic: Cultural connections, Diversity awareness  
Class activity: The Even Playing Field; Cultural Competence Checklist

Week 9: Class discussion/reflection on past week's experiences; Progress reports on Project 2.  
Class topic: Failure with the Best of Intentions – When Things Go Wrong

Week 10: Class discussion/reflection on past week's experiences; Progress reports on Project 2.  
Class topic: Civic Engagement: What is good citizenship?

Week 11: Class discussion/reflection on past week's experiences.  
Finalize plans for Project 2. Each committee will report the status of their portion of the project.

Week 12: Project 2, Serve meal at Women and Children's Shelter

Week 13: Class discussion/reflection on past week's experiences.  
Class Topic: Expanding Horizons; What other Community Service opportunities are out there?

Week 14: Class discussion/reflection on past week's experiences.  
Beyond the Grade: Are We Making a Difference?

Week 15: Final class meeting, celebration with community partner volunteers

\*Course topics are subject to change at the discretion of the instructors.