

Companion Animals in Society

Spring 2012

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Office hours: MWF 12:30-1:30 and by appointment

Class time and place:

Class meets from 1-2 pm Monday

Community Partner:

OLOL Regional Medical Center

Contact:

Service Learning

ANSC??? Is a Service-Learning Course. Service-Learning is defined as:

“...a method under which students learn and develop through thoughtfully organized service that: is conducted in and meets the needs of a community and is coordinated with an institution of higher education, and with the community; helps foster civic responsibility; is integrated into and enhances the academic curriculum of the students enrolled; and includes structured time for students to reflect on the service experience”

(adapted from the National and community Trust Act of 1993)

Course Overview:

The purpose of ANSC #? is to introduce students to the strong connection between people and pets. We will explore why we chose certain animals as companions, roles that animals play in our lives, and how we influence each other. We will also explore ways that interactions with animals can enrich our lives and affect the human physiological processes.

The class will be divided into small groups for the hospital visits. This experience will enable students to witness firsthand the “healing power of pets,” and will lift the spirits of these children. Specific dates and times of hospital visits to be determined.

The service-learning component requires students to participate in several visits to OLOL Children’s Hospital. At least 2 visits are required with a certified therapy dog to interact with children who are sick. I will provide my dog for the class to use, but if a student has a therapy-certified dog, that is also acceptable. There will be a limit of 4-5 students per hospital visit. A minimum of 2 visits without the therapy dog(s) are also required. I will

provide specific dates and times available for visits with and without the dog(s) and students can sign up for dates that are convenient. At least one visit without the dog and one visit with the dog are required prior to midterm week.

Students will be responsible for interacting with the children and doing small activities like reading books, drawing, etc...If possible, more visits with and without the therapy dog will be scheduled for the students. A minimum of 10 contact hours are required at the hospital. A log of hours is required and needs to be signed by a specified hospital contact person.

Please visit Moodle for class updates/changes and announcements

Legal correspondence between instructors and students can be by way of email. Using the LSU PAWS system, email addressed to an lsu.edu email address is considered official, and hence, it is an appropriate and legal form of communication. If you forward your email to another account, it is your responsibility to make sure it is forwarded correctly. I (Dr. Ritchie) will only accept email at the following address: (jritchie@lsu.edu).

Course Policies

Failure to adhere to course policies may result in reduction of your course grade or you may be asked to drop the class.

1. All students participating in ANSC ? must abide by all University policies and rules while participating in course-related activities. Please review the Student Code of Conduct.
2. Academic integrity: as a participant in a service-learning course, you are representing LSU and it is extremely important that the highest standards of integrity are maintained. LSU policies regarding academic misconduct can be found online at: [http://appl003.lsu.edu/slas/dos.nsf/\\$Content/Code+of+Conduct](http://appl003.lsu.edu/slas/dos.nsf/$Content/Code+of+Conduct).
3. Individuals with Disabilities: Accommodations will be made for students with disabilities. Please contact me as soon as possible if you have a disability so arrangements can be made.
4. Professional standards:

Dress: This course involves interacting with the public. Appropriate dress varies based on the tasks you are doing. While at the service site, I want you to be comfortable but be sure to adhere to the following guidelines:

- a. Undergarments should not be visible
- b. Clothing should not be torn or be dirty

- c. T-shirts should not have logos that advertise alcohol, cigarettes, junk food, or that may be construed as having sexual innuendos or expressing derogatory views of individuals or groups of people.
 - d. Clothing should not be excessively tight or revealing.
- Feel free to ask if you are unsure what would be appropriate.

Academic Learning Goals and Objectives

1. Gain an understanding of the importance of human-animal interactions.
2. Understand the roles animals play in our society and how we influence each other.
3. Understand the nature of the human-animal bond.

Service-Learning goals and objectives

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the role that the human animal bond plays in healing through reflective essays/journals, class discussions/presentations.
2. Integrate service/community needs with learning by understanding the “healing power of pets.”
3. Understanding how the human animal bond can be utilized to serve others.

Required reading

Anderson E.P. 2008. The Powerful Bond Between People and Pets. Preager, Westport

Suggested References

American Veterinary Medical Association. Heightened Awareness of the Human Animal Bond Means Better Care for Animals. Schaumburg: AVMA, 1998.

Becker, M. 2002. The Healing Power of Pets. Hyperion, New York

Attendance/Participation

Participation and attendance to class and hospital visits are an integral part of this course. In class, you are expected to contribute to discussions and reflect on reading assignments or experience. During hospital visits students are expected to handle the therapy dog(s) and speak to/interact with the children in a positive manner.

Students are expected to attend class (see PS-22 or the current LSU General Catalog). Students unable to attend class due to an emergency illness or another excused absence (PS-22) should contact the instructor within 24 hours to schedule missed quizzes or assignments. A written medical doctor's excuse or other formal documentation is the only excused absence for illness. Make up exams must be scheduled with the instructor.

In the event of weather-related or other emergencies that may affect university closure, ANSC #? will adhere to the official LSU schedule. Official closures of the university are posted on the LSU web page (<http://www.lsu.edu>), and it is the student's responsibility to check on this site to determine if classes will be in session or cancelled. Note: media announcements are not always accurate, so check the LSU home page to confirm whether LSU is open or closed.

Assignments:

Each student will be responsible for leading one presentation or discussion based on a reading assignment. You may organize something more formal, like a PowerPoint presentation, or lead a discussion with the class simply seated in a desk. Be sure to discuss major points in the assigned chapter. The class should take notes as this material will be covered on the final exam. You will be provided with a grading sheet for guidance in preparing for your presentation/lead discussion.

Students are required to participate in hospital visits at assigned times/dates. Please ensure that you are on time for the scheduled visits.

Journal entries will be a typed reflection on the site visit and any other topics relevant during that time of the semester. Journal entries are due in class 1 week after site visit and must be at least 2 typed pages. Journal entries must include but are not limited to:

Challenges at the site visit

Accomplishments

Dynamics between your group, you and the children, and hospital staff

Ways to improve the course/site visit design

Anticipations/thoughts on your next visit

Reflections on assigned readings and how they incorporate into the site visits.

Compare and contrast visits with and without the therapy dog

Journal grading: a maximum of 25 points can be earned per journal entry. Listed below are guidelines and suggestions for the entries:

1. The effort put forth has demonstrated the full potential of the student's capability.
Maximum 5 points
2. The journal entry is neatly typed(2-3 pages) and spelling, grammar, and punctuation in the journal is accurate; journal is turned in on time. Maximum 5 points
3. The journal entry covers various aspects of the students experiences which shows the student's understanding of the course objectives. Maximum 4 points
4. The organization of the journal entries are clear and easy to follow. Maximum 3 points
5. The journal includes above listed criteria. Maximum 8 points

Course Grading

Journal entry #1 25 points
 Journal entry #2 25 points
 Journal entry #3 25 points
 Journal entry #4 25 points
 Site visit participation 25 points per visit (2 visits)
 Class attendance 25 points
 Class participation 25 points
 Presentation/lead discussion 25 points
 Final Exam 50 points
 Total semester points 275

247.5-275 points (90%-100%) = A
 220-246 points (80%-89.5%) = B
 192-219 points (70%-79.5%) = C
 165-191 points (60%- 69.5%) = D
 < 165 points = F

<u>DATE</u> (weeks)	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>ASSIGNED READING</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT DUE</u>
1.	Introduction to class and service learning	syllabus	
2.	Guest speaker: someone from CCELL Guest speaker: OLOL representative	Definitions and principles of service learning(handouts)-pp 7-21 Service Learning Toolkit; review CCELL@lsu.edu website	
3.	Human-Animal Bond introduction	Preface, forward, note to reader, and introduction in text	Instructor-led group discussion on assigned reading in class
4.	Companion Animals in America and around the Globe	Ch. 1	Assigned student presents a 25-30 minute presentation/discussion on chapter
5.	Pets as Medicine	Ch. 6	Assigned student presents a 25-30 minute presentation/discussion on chapter
6.	Genesis and the nature of the bond	Chapter 2	Assigned student presents a 25-30 minute presentation/discussion on chapter
7.	Human-Animal Bond	American Veterinary Medical Association. Heightened Awareness of the Human Animal Bond Means Better Care for Animals. Schaumberg: AVMA, 1998.	Assigned student presents a 25-30 minute presentation/discussion on reading

8.	Animals in the Human World	Ch. 5	Assigned student presents a 25-30 minute presentation/discussion on chapter
9.	Why we choose certain animals as companions	Ch. 3	Assigned student presents a 25-30 minute presentation/discussion on chapter
10.	Roles animals play in our lives and how we influence each other	Ch. 4	Assigned student presents a 25-30 minute presentation/discussion on chapter
11.	When Love Hurts	Ch. 8	Assigned student presents a 25-30 minute presentation/discussion on chapter
12.	The dark side of the Human-Animal Bond	Jon Katz publication	Assigned student presents a 25-30 minute presentation/discussion on readings
13.	Love Gone Bad	Ch. 9	Assigned student presents a 25-30 minute presentation/discussion on chapter
14.	Protecting Our Companion Animals	Ch. 7	Assigned student presents a 25-30 minute presentation/discussion on chapter
15.	Semester reflection		Class discussion
16.	Final exam		