**Community Service Learning**

**Credit value**: 3 USA Credits (6 ECTS Credits) – equivalent to 12 NMMU credits (the programme is open to students with a GPA of 2.5 and above (for students from the United States)

**Facilitator:** Ms Natalie Mansvelt

**Introduction**

Participants in the Community Service Learning Programme will be able to volunteer their time and skills and in the process, gain an understanding of the development challenges facing South Africa. **Service learning** is defined as "an experiential approach to education that involves students in meaningful, real-world activities that can advance social, emotional, career, and academic curricula goals while benefitting communities"(Wilczenski & Coomey, 2007, p. 8).

The aim of this programme is to provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate and develop their global citizenship through volunteer work. Students will develop an understanding of current issues impacting community life in South Africa. They will experience this first hand through their volunteer work.

**Programme Presentation**

The programme is facilitated by NMU academics and community experts. Lectures consist of theoretical and interactive sessions. Through lecture preparation and active participation will ensure an optimum learning experience. Incorporated in the programme are also visits / excursions that will immerse students into South Africa's rich cultural and environmental heritage.

**Learning Outcome: On completion of this programme students will:**

- A theoretical understanding of, as well as practical exposure to, the face and impact of poverty in South Africa
- A broad understanding of the process and principles of community development
- The ability to apply the principles of asset-based community development while volunteering at projects
- Knowledge of and experience in building relationships to participate in the development of people

## Assessments

There are two assessments: portfolio and presentation. The final mark for the module will be determined as follows:

- 60% of the final mark will come from the portfolio;
- 30% of the final mark will come from the presentation;
- 10% will be awarded for attendance of lectures and participation in discussions.

- **Grading explained**

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|---|---|---|
| Needs improvement | Below 50% | The assignment does not meet the requirements; does not include all components and/or does not go beyond a descriptive level. No interaction with the learning subject, little or no reflection |
| Satisfactory | 50-64% | Some evidence of critical and analytical thinking, examples, illustrations and reflection. |
| Good | 65-74% | Substantial evidence of critical and analytical thinking; engagement with the learning subject; examples and illustrations; in depth reflection. |
| Excellent | 75% and above | Exceeds expectations in all criteria/outcomes |

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- **Comparison of grades**

| **NMMU grades** | **US grades** |
|---|---|
| 80-100% | A+ |
| 75-79% | A |
| 70-74% | B+ |
| 65-69% | B |
| 60-64% | B- |
| 57-59% | C+ |
| 54-56% | C |
| 51-53% | C- |
| 50% | D |
| 0-49% | Fail |