

# Proposal for New Service-Learning Program Alternative Break

## **Service Learning Department's Mission Statement:**

*The mission of the Service Learning Office is to promote service learning as a special form of experiential education whereby students engage in organized activities designed to enhance their intellectual, social, and personal development while meeting community needs.*

*As a unit of the Division of Student Affairs, the Service Learning Office will organize and manage a comprehensive program in collaboration with faculty, administrators, staff, students, and community partners to encourage academic excellence and, at the same time, foster civic responsibility and the scholarship of engagement.*

## **Proposed Mission Statement for Alternative Break Program:**

*The mission of the alternative break is to promote service on local, regional, national and international levels through break-oriented programs that immerse students in different cultures. Alternative spring break programs will place students in communities where they perform short-term projects while learning about such issues as poverty, educational and cultural literacy, racism, hunger, the environment, homelessness and health related issues. These educational experiences are designed to heighten social awareness and promote lifelong social action.*

## **Proposed Student Learning Outcomes of Alternative Break Program:**

- Students will enhance their interpersonal development by developing an appreciation of human differences and diversity.*
- Students will develop sensitivity and empathy as it relates to issues of culture and diversity.*
- Students will enhance cognitive skills through reflective thought and critical analysis of the learning experience.*
- Students will obtain an increased awareness of their social and civic responsibility.*

## **Theoretical Backing for Program Design:**

### **Experiential Learning Theory-Kolb's Model of Learning**

Holistic Learning Model of how individual's learn, grow and develop

Defines Learning as the "process whereby knowledge is created through the transformation of experience"  
(Sternberg & Zhang, 2000,)

### **Knowledge-Experience-Transformation**

## Proposed Program Design

### Class Specifics

**Units:** 1

**Grading:** Pass/Fail

**Fulfills:** 1 unit Service-Learning Requirement for Graduation

**Prerequisites:** None

**Class Size:** 20 max

### Faculty

Director of Alternative Spring Break Program

1-2 Faculty Members

Preferably in the Humanities

1-2 Student Affairs Professionals

#### **Responsibilities:**

Attend All Meetings

Go On the Trip

Leading Discussion Groups (4-5 students)

Assign Grades

### Grading

Pass/Fail (like all Service Learning Requirement Courses)

Determined by:

50% Journals

50% Participation

Must have 70% for a passing grade

### Budget

#### **Cost to Service-Learning Office:**

**Budget:**\$3,000-\$4,000

This amount will be allocated per the service-learning fee included in students' tuition.

#### **Faculty Cost:**

**No Cost**

Comes out of program budget

#### **Cost to Students:**

Approximately \$550

Includes:

Airfare \$400 roundtrip (appx.)

Hotel \$50 per person (appx. for two nights)

Meals \$50 per for 4-5 meals

Urban Cultural Experiences \$50

## Class Time

	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Meeting</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting</b>	<b>Trip</b>	<b>Debrief Meeting</b>
<b>Content</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Introduction to</li> <li>-Faculty</li> <li>-Students</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Overview of Trip</li> <li>-Dates</li> <li>-Destination</li> <li>-Expenses</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Details about the organization we will be working with</li> <li>-Possible Learning Experiences</li> <li>-Pass out paperwork</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Discussion</li> <li>-Journals</li> <li>-Culture</li> <li>-Current Events</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Final Itinerary &amp; Trip Details</li> <li>-Finalize Paperwork</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Humanitarian Work</li> <li>5-7 days</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Discussion Groups</li> <li>Daily</li> <li>-Urban Cultural Experiences</li> <li>1 Day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Discussion Groups</li> <li>-Class Discussion</li> </ul>
<b>Length</b>	2.5 hours	2.5 hours	7-10 Days	2.5 hours
<b>Journal</b>	Assign 1 <sup>st</sup> Journal	Assign 2 <sup>nd</sup> Journal (due before departure)	Daily Debrief Journal	
<b>Due</b>		1 <sup>st</sup> Journal	2 <sup>nd</sup> Journal	Trip & Debrief Journal

# Proposed Spring Break 2009 Trip – New Orleans

## The Organization: Emergency Communities

### Who are they?

A non-profit organization that provides community based disaster relief.

### What they do:

They operate several centers in Hurricane Katrina affected areas where they provide the following services to local residents:

3 Meals a Day	House Gutting	Residential Rebuilding
Yard Clean Up	Laundry Facilities	Youth Activities
Phones	After School Programs	Internet Access

### What they provide for volunteers:

Housing	Travel to and from the airport
Free Internet	All equipment/tools needed for volunteer work
3 meals a day	Make all arrangements for volunteer work
Free Laundry	Free Long Distance Phone Calls

## Trip Itinerary

### Day 1:

Depart University  
Arrive Relief Agency  
Discussion Groups

### Day 2-5:

Humanitarian Work  
Discussion Groups  
Journal

### Day 6:

Humanitarian Work  
Depart Emergency Communities  
Arrive Hotel  
Discussion Groups  
Journal

### Day 7:

Urban Cultural Experiences in New Orleans  
Discussion Groups  
Journal

### Day 8:

Depart New Orleans  
Arrive University

## Proposed Journals Assignments

### Meeting 1

- Brief Bio Including the following: Name, Major (Minor), Interests, Previous experiences with service based organizations & Where you grew up (City and State)
- Why did you choose to participate in this experience for your Service Learning Requirement?
- What do you know about what happened in the Hurricane Katrina Disaster?
- What do you think you will experience in New Orleans?
- What do you think you can learn from this experience?
- What are your expectations for this experience?

### Meeting 2

- 1-2 page responses to 3-5 articles written about what occurred previous, during and in the aftermath of the Hurricane Katrina Disaster.

### Trip

#### Daily Questions:

- What did you do today?
- How did you help people today?
- What surprised you today?
- What did you learn today?

#### Questions to be spread out over trip:

- How are the people you provided services to different than you? The same?
- Compare and Contrast what you are seeing first-hand with what you were assigned to read about in regards to the Hurricane Katrina Disaster.
- Do you feel race has played or is playing a role in the people who have or who are receiving help and those who have not or are not?
- Do you feel social class differences have played (or are playing) a role in who has or has not received help?

### Debrief

- What aspects of culture in New Orleans are different than where you live? the same?
- What did you learn about yourself from participating in this service learning trip?
- What did you learn about working with others from your time spent on this trip?
- Write 3-5 pages that discuss what you have learned and observed from your experience in New Orleans in regards to race, politics, class, disaster relief, etc. Feel free to use information from the assigned readings and/or other sources.