

Teaching Beyond the Classroom grant application

CSEM 23101 Diversity and Equality

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Proposal Summary:

This College Seminar focuses on the relationship of diversity to equality. For the final oral presentation of this class, students are expected to report on their experiences at local nonprofit organizations that deal with those in poverty, along with an analysis of those experiences in the context of the course theme. Key issues involving diversity, inequality and poverty will be highlighted by the visits, as students meet people, hear stories and talk with staff at these nonprofits about their goals and practices and how nonprofits, in diverse ways, address the issue of poverty and relate to those experiencing it. The experiences will also be used as a basis for class discussions, a key part of the College Seminar class format.

Specifically, the class focuses on the tensions between the concepts of diversity (defined as lifestyle diversity) and economic equality, and students will be expected to see how the nonprofits handle the tension between the two concepts. To what extent do they attempt to help clients escape poverty, or alternatively, to what extent do they refrain from more proactive approaches and focus simply on other goals such as providing community, in the process allowing more lifestyle diversity? In other words, to what extent do nonprofits attempt to “push” people out of poverty through specific activities and requirements (such as classes)? How do these nonprofits manage the tensions between the goals of economic equality and acceptance of diversity?

The students (14 total paired up into 7 groups) will visit seven different nonprofits in South Bend, such as St. Margaret’s House, Hope Ministries, Center for Homeless, Catholic Worker, and Stone Soup Community. Some of these visits will include meals with clients/guests and staff of these organizations. In addition, guest speakers will visit class from one or more nonprofits, such as “Bridges Out of Poverty.” Since the nonprofits are all in or near downtown South Bend, students will be expected to use their own transportation, not university vehicles. The course instructors have made contact with nearly all of the possible nonprofits to confirm their participation.

Budget:

Two speakers @ \$50 each		\$100
Contributions to local nonprofits for staff time, and for meal expenses.	7 nonprofits x \$100	700
Total		\$800