Kresge 12A Summer Session
Introduction to Homeless Issues and National Service

Instructor: Franklin Williams
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TTh 3-5:30pm
103 Science Annex
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Great colleges must strongly show that they are committed to community service learning as much as conventional classroom-based education. Student service helps create real citizens through real experiences. This course is broadly structured to enhance a student’s opportunities to try and help creative, personal, and collective growth. It will focus strongly on local, selfless community service to confront local and national issues, especially related to poverty and the homeless crisis.

Each student in the course will be expected to develop a field placement (internship). Because of the Corona Virus some of these placements may be on line rather than face-to-face. The course instructor will help student develop placements for themselves in this course.

Assigned readings and class discussions will focus on the wider context for the kinds of placements in which the students in the course are involved.

Course Requirements:

- Complete an average of 4 hours of community service or research each week of the summer session ((20 hours total for the session). Some weeks may have more hours and some fewer depending on circumstances. Students are required to complete an active field journal for their involvement with their field service site. [40% of final grade]
- Students are expected to regularly participate in the Zoom Class meetings. Students should prepare for the Zoom sessions by doing the assigned readings before each of the sessions. [20% of final grade]
- Write three papers (between two and three double-spaced pages each) commenting on readings, videos, and class discussions. The papers are due at the end of the day under which they are listed. [15% of final grade]
- A fourth and final paper of about six pages will discuss all of the material covered in this course. The final paper is due at the end of the day on Friday, July 24. [25% of final grade]
- Papers are expected to be turned in on time. There is no final exam in this course.

Assigned Readings (See below in the syllabus for information on when each reading is assigned for class discussion. Students should prepare the readings listed under a given date before that date for class discussion.):

- Dr. Paul Lee, The Quality of Mercy, [Can be downloaded for free from Ecotopia.org].
• Mike Rhodes, Dispatches from the War Zone, Available on line from Amazon or at Bay Tree Bookstore  (This book can also be picked up in person by students living in Santa Cruz.)
• Several newspaper articles will also be assigned to prepare for various classes during the session.

Syllabus

Class 1 -- Tu, June 23: Intro to course, discussion of course requirements, including texts and articles, discussion of face-to-face or on-line placements for this course.

Class 2 – Th, June 25: Overview of the Homeless Crisis and Discussion of finding field placements.
Readings: Quality of Mercy, Introduction and Chapter 1
“Big Problems in Harvey West Area,”
1st Paper Due – Comments on the book Intro and Chapter 1 and the article, and the experience of Searching For a Service Site

Class 3 – Tu, June 30: Student Homelessness
Readings: Quality of Mercy, Chapters 2, 3, and 4.
“Why not let homeless college students park in campus lots?”

Class 4 – Th, July 2: Homeless Stereotypes
Video: “Homeless in Paradise”
Readings: Quality of Mercy,” Chapter 5, 6, and 7.
“Residents in RVs driving up homeless numbers”
“War of words over RB ban’s effect on homeless.”
2nd Paper Due – Discuss the problems confronted by the programs set up by Dr. Paul Lee that he discusses in Chapters 5,6, and 7 of Quality of Mercy."

Class 5 – Tu, July 7: The Homeless Crisis in Fresno
Readings: Dispatches from the War Zone, Chapters 1-5.
“A New secret in California: Working while homeless”
“New law addresses patient ‘dumping’”
“California is No. 1 in the nation in poverty”
“Supporters protest activists’ imminent eviction in West Oakland”

Class 6 – Th, July 9: Homelessness and Mental Health
Readings: Dispatches from the War Zone, Chapter 6-11.
“Jury finds Charles Edwards sane, guilty of murder of Santa Cruz shop owner Shannon Collins”

No Paper Due this Week.

Class 7 – Tu, July 14: Addiction and More on Mental Health and Homelessness
**Readings:** *Dispatches from the War Zone*, Chapters 12-16.

“Are many homeless people in L.A. mentally ill? New Findings back the public’s perception.”

“County leaders outline new meth sobering center plan”

**Class 8 – Th, July 16: Housing and Homelessness**

**Readings:** *Dispatches from the War Zone*, Chapters 17-20.

“Is the shift to permanent housing making L.A.’s homelessness problem even worse?”

“Bill aims to ease Section 8 obstacles”

**3rd Paper Due:** The Causes of Homelessness

**Class 9 – Tu, July 21: Origins of the Homeless Shelter Movement**

**Video:** “Dorothy Day: Don’t Call Me a Saint”

**Readings:** “County can do more to help solve homelessness”

“California foster youth need support well into their 20s”

“Action urged on student homelessness”

**Class 10 – Th, July 23: Final Class**

**Readings:** “Causes of Homelessness: the Homeless Hub”

**4th and Final Paper Due:**

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