

**Common Course Outline**  
**SSCI 112**  
**Civic and Community Engagement**  
**3 Credits**

**Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**SSCI 112 – 3 credits – Civic and Community Engagement** focuses on the value and historical importance of the American democratic tradition of service, civic participation and activism. During the course students are actively involved in community projects and develop reflective skills to assess the community and society's needs and their role as change agents. Students are required to participate in a minimum of 30 hours of community service.

**3 Credits**

**Prerequisites:** ACLT 052 or ACLT 053

**Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. describe the tradition of volunteerism and civic participation in the history of American society;
2. explain the role of volunteerism among diverse groups in America;
3. explain the impact of volunteerism on America's role in the global community;
4. describe the pedagogical tradition of experiential education and how it contrasts to other academic and culturally diverse approaches to learning;
5. identify the principles of service learning and locate this pedagogy in the tradition of experiential education;
6. apply service learning principles by becoming engaged in the work of a community organization;
7. discuss the needs of community agencies and how collaboration with similar agencies can facilitate the accomplishment of organizational goals;
8. examine how civic and community engagement can challenge societal inequality and enable change;
9. apply sociological theories and concepts to evaluate the diverse needs in a community and determine the means to eliminate community problems;
10. discuss strategies to alleviate community and societal level problems;
11. engage others in diverse communities with tact and sensitivity;
12. evaluate the process and results of learning through immersion in a service learning project;

13. find, evaluate, use and cite academic resources that assess different types of civic and community organizations;
14. examine personal and professional ethics of diverse community organizations;
15. use both observation skills and technological tools to develop a thoughtful social and cultural critique
16. relate service and volunteerism to specific career paths and objectives, and
17. discuss the value of civic and community engagement and other service-related activities.

### **Major Topics**

- I. Volunteerism as an American tradition
- II. Volunteerism as fundamental to a civic democracy and a diverse society
- III. What it means to be a citizen in a democratic nation
- IV. Basic principles of experiential education
- V. The relationship of experiential education to other more traditional academic approaches to learning
- VI. Service learning as a pedagogical approach in the tradition of experiential education
- VII. How service learning builds from the tradition of experiential education
- VIII. Assessment of community needs
- IX. The roles of service agencies in a community
- X. The roles of service agencies as change agents
- XI. The reflective process and diverse approaches to reflection
- XII. Independent learning as a means for personal growth
- XIII. The role of civic and community conscience
- XIV. What it means to think globally and act locally

### **Course Requirements**

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty but will include the following:

- A minimum of 8 weekly field notes
- Completed evaluation by work-site supervisor
- A minimum of 2 written assignments on assigned readings
- Final oral presentation or other reflective activity

**Writing Assignments:** Multiple assignments will infuse CCBC's General Education Program and Diversity objectives; at least one assignment (minimum of 5 pages; applying sociological theories to understanding the impact of social class on individual lives), worth a minimum of 10% of the total course grade, will allow students to demonstrate at least 5 of the 7 General Education Program outcomes.

### **Other Course Information**

This course is an approved General Education course in the Social and Behavioral Sciences category. This course is also an approved General Education Diversity course.

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