Service-Learning as One of Four Options

Psychology 301: Abnormal Psychology
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The instructor augments lecture, group discussions, and exams with hands-on learning options. Students select two of the four options below.

Discussion Forum:

Student submit responses to two of each module's discussion questions, submitting a lessons learned paragraph for each module, and providing two peer reviews in each module on postings submitted by a classmate.

Lab Projects:

Lab projects are designed to allow students the opportunity to learn, through personal experience, about the behavioral and attitudinal manifestations of psychology in general and the disordered population in particular and to obtain first-hand experience with the phenomena under study. The procedures for conducting lab projects and documenting their results will be posted in the Lab Projects thread at the beginning of the term. Each of the five lab projects will make up five per cent of your course grade.

Service-Learning Participation:

The service-learning component of this course is designed to allow students to obtain hands-on experience with adolescents or adults in a variety of settings in order to evaluate the validity and accuracy of the theoretical materials presented in the text, supplemental readings, lectures, and other didactic components. Students who select this option will be required to attend between one and five hours of training with the agency they select from a list provided by the instructor, provide a minimum of 20 hours of service with that agency, participate in the service-learning discussion threads for each three-week module of the course, and turn in or post during the last week of the term either a civic engagement poster or a paper summarizing their service, the lessons learned from it and their relationship to our course's learning objectives, the value of their contributions to the agency as well as to any individual clients, and suggestions for improving the service-learning component of this course in future offerings. This service-learning component will count as 25% of your course grade.

Personal Exploration Package:

During the semester, several personal explorations will be conducted in the classroom or on our Blackboard web site or in the form of handouts to be completed at home. Students choosing to use the personal exploration package as a means of obtaining part of their grade will analyze the results of their completed explorations and submit a detailed report, three to five pages in length, describing the findings they obtained, their interpretation of the meaning of those findings in their own lives, and any actions they intend to take as a result. This report will be typed, double-spaced, and must be turned in by the 15th of December.