
DePaul University
School of Continuing and Professional Studies

Spirituality and Homelessness: A Service Learning Externship
Spring 2021

COURSE INFORMATION

Faculty: Karl Nass, M.C.P., M.A.P.S., (773) 325-1195, knass@depaul.edu

Office Location: Lincoln Park Student Center, Suite 311

My office hours are by appointment.

Course No.: LL 302/LL 302

Course runs: 3/29/21 – 6/7/21

Course Delivery Format: Online

Required zoom sessions on Mondays, 7:00 – 8:00 pm, weeks 1, 2, 4, 6, 8

Online Hybrid. Required zoom sessions weeks-1,2,4,6,8.

Meets asynchronously online weeks - 3,5,7,9,11 No class 5/31 Memorial Day Holiday.

Credit Hours: 4

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome! This course will examine the broad issue of homelessness by providing students the opportunity to reflect upon stories narrated by people experiencing homelessness and to reflect upon a range of sustained efforts to address homelessness. Students will explore what can be learned about themselves as reflective practitioners, service learners, and spiritual human beings when reflecting upon this experiential learning process. Through the class discussions, assigned readings, invited speakers, and journal assignments, students will reflect on their own beliefs and perceptions of homelessness and analyze the history, causes, and policy associated with this societal problem.

FACULTY BIOGRAPHY

Karl Nass is the Director of Vincentian Service & Formation in the Division of Mission and Ministry at DePaul University. He completed his Master's in Pastoral Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Hyde Park in 2019 and his Master's in City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania in 1998. He earned his Bachelor's of Arts in Economics from the University of

Notre Dame in 1993. He engaged in post-graduate research and service in Santiago, Chile from 1994-1996, and he was the Director of the Philadelphia Higher Education Network for Neighborhood Development (PHENND) from 1998-1999. He lives in the Roger's Park neighborhood in Chicago with his wife and family.

COURSE COMPETENCES

In this course, you will develop the following competence:

Competence	Competence Statement
<p>LL-11, Externship</p>	<p>Can reflect on one's own service learning experience and perceptions regarding homelessness and integrate the critical reflection and subsequent research, class discussions, and course readings into a final project.</p>
<p>LL-7, L-10, Externship</p>	<p>Can reflect on the learning process and methods used in an experiential project.</p>

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Some students will be registering for this course for credits only, not competence, via the SNC section.

Students enrolled in this course will:

- Define reflection and explain why reflection is important in personal and societal contexts.
- Explain why reflection is important for systemic change analysis.
- Analyze homelessness with a systemic change analysis.
- Recognize their own perceptions about homelessness.
- Write journals that focus on objective, subjective, and integrative dimensions of their service-learning experience.
- Describe Vincentian spiritual wisdom of human dignity in the context of people experiencing homelessness.
- Describe origin and application of experiential learning in our service-learning context

- Analyze researched factors contributing to homelessness in light of service-learning experience.
- Identify current local, state, or federal legislation/policy that addresses homelessness.
- Analyze individual and societal responsibilities in addressing homelessness.
- Apply the Vincentian question of “What Must Be Done” to a personal, organizational, and societal response to homelessness in a final project.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Service Learning Experience: Through digital media, students will reflect upon stories narrated by people experiencing homelessness and sustained efforts to address homelessness.

Written Journal: Students will be required to complete a bi-weekly journal describing your perceptions, feelings, and ideas about your experiential learning process.

Required Reading: There are readings that will be assigned on a weekly basis. Students are expected to read the assigned portions.

Invited Guest Lecturers: Speakers dedicated to addressing the problem of homelessness at the community, government, or university level - normally invited to present their work and participate in class reflection and discussion during on ground coursework - will be integrated into digital media engagement with people and organizations addressing homelessness.

Attendance and Participation: Regular weekly online engagement is required. Students must inform the instructor of any anticipated or emergency absences from weekly engagement. Students will be expected to engage in small and large group reflective discussions that focus on the students’ service learning experience, assigned readings, guest lecturers, or written journal work.

Final Project: All students will complete a final critical reflection paper of no more than 6 page as well as a 4-6 minute oral presentation to the class.

EVIDENCE TO BE SUBMITTED

All students will:

- Submit a reflective journal on a bi-weekly basis that reflects on your experiential learning process as well as weekly check-ins.
- Submit a final paper of no more than 6 pages due at the end of the quarter. The paper will demonstrate the student's experiential learning derived from your experiential learning, readings, class discussions, research, and journal work.

- Submit all written assignments that follow the accepted practices of standard English grammar and usage. The paper and journal should be typed and double spaced. Students can reference the Writing Guide for SCPS Students (<https://scps.depaul.edu/Pages/SCPSWriting.aspx>) with any questions about standards or resources for writing.
- Uphold the University's guidelines concerning academic integrity. These may be found in the DePaul [Student Handbook](#).

Criteria for Assessment

The assessment will strive to embody the four qualities of clarity, integrity, flexibility, and empathy. This class is a Pass/Fail course for School for Continuing and Professional Studies students. In order to pass, students are required to:

- Fulfill the experiential learning expectations connected to reflecting on digital stories narrated by people experiencing homelessness and sustained efforts to address homelessness
- Complete a journal entry for digital media assignments introducing students to people experiencing homelessness and sustained efforts to address homelessness. Student reflective journals must follow the format and guidelines distributed at the second course session. Additionally, students will submit weekly check-ins.
- Participate in reflective conversations with other members of the class that focus on their experiential learning experience, assigned readings, guest lecturers, or written journal work.
- Complete a final project of two parts:
 - A **critical reflection paper** of no more than 6 pages due at the end of the quarter. The paper will respond to an assigned question and follow guidelines that will be posted on D2L during Week 5. The paper will be an exercise of critical reflection upon the student's experiential learning, readings, class discussions, research, and journal work.
 - A **4-6 minute class presentation** that can be made alone or in collaboration with another class member based on your critical reflection paper. Creativity is highly encouraged!
- All liberal studies (SNC) courses are set to allow you to only receive letter grades, rather than pass/fail. .

GRADING CRITERIA & SCALE

A = 95 to 100	A- = 91 to 94	B+ = 88 to 90
B = 85 to 87	B- = 81 to 84	C+ = 77 to 80
C = 73 to 76	C- = 69 to 72	D+ = 65 to 68
D = 61 to 64	F = 60 or below	

PASS/FAIL GRADE POLICY

DePaul Temporary Pass/D/F policy

The university has adopted a special temporary P/D/F grading policy for both graduate and undergraduate programs until further notice. Details of the P/D/F policy can be found on the university [COVID 19 Update](#) website.

Highlights:

- Students can choose or remove the P/D/F option until 3 days after the grade deadline.
- Go to Campus Connect, Academic Records, to select or remove this option.
- See the COVID 19 update website for exact dates and deadlines.
- Faculty will submit a letter grade in all cases.
- If the grade is a C- or better, with the P/D/F option, it will automatically change to Pass.
- All other grades will remain including D, F, IN, M, W.
- Students can choose this option for any or all of their program requirements.
- Contact your advisor for more information.

This policy is temporarily overridden by the Covid 19 P/D/F policy and will resume when the temporary policy has ended.

Students interested in taking a course on a Pass/Fail grade basis need to contact their academic advisor to request the option by the end of the second week of the course. SCPS students can email their requests to their advisors and include the course number, quarter, and student ID number. Non-SCPS students need to contact their home college for instructions on submitting these requests. Please review the P/F guidelines, course restrictions and GPA implications in the [University catalog](#) before making your request. A grade of Pass represents a D or better standard and therefore will not meet requirements that have a minimum standard of C- or better. For further clarification of the P/F option for SCPS students beyond the university guidelines, please refer to the [SCPS catalog](#).

MINIMUM SCPS GRADE POLICY

SCPS degree programs with majors (BAPSBA, BAPSC, BAHA, BADA, BANM, and BALS) require a grade of C- or better in courses taken at DePaul or transfer work applied to course requirements in the Major and in the LL 261: Essay Writing course in the College Core. All other course requirements in these programs can be completed with a grade of D or better. SCPS degree completion major programs (BAABS and BALS) require a C- or better in all courses taken at DePaul applied to those programs. SCPS competence-based programs (BAIFA, BAC, BAGB and BAECE) require a D or better in courses taken at DePaul or transfer work applied to competence requirements.

INCOMPLETE (IN) GRADE

This process follows university [policy](#).

A student who encounters an unusual or unforeseeable circumstance that prevents her/him from completing the course requirements by the end of the term may request a time extension to complete the work.

- The student must formally initiate the request by submitting the [Contract for Issuance of Incomplete Grade form](#) (via email, word doc), no later than week 10 (or prior to the final week of a shorter-term course).
- The instructor has discretion to approve or not approve the student's request for an IN grade.
- The instructor has discretion to set the deadline for completion of the work, which may be earlier but no later than two quarters (not counting Summer term).
- The instructor may not enter an IN grade on behalf of a student without a completed and agreed upon contract.
- The student is alerted that IN grades are not considered by Financial Aid as evidence of satisfactory academic progress.

THIS COURSE INCLUDES AND ADHERES TO THE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES DESCRIBED IN THE LINKS BELOW:

[APA citation format \(GRAD\)](#)[Academic Integrity Policy \(GRAD\)](#)

[Academic Integrity Policy \(UGRAD\)](#)

[Incomplete \(IN\) and Research \(R\) Grades Expiration Policy](#)

[Withdrawal/Drop Policy](#) and [Withdrawal Tuition](#)

[Accommodations Based on the Impact of a Disability](#)

Students are also invited to contact me privately to discuss your challenges and how I may assist in facilitating the accommodations you will use during this course. This is best done early in the term and our conversation will remain confidential.

[Protection of Human Research Participants](#)

OTHER RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

[University Center for Writing-based Learning](#)

[Dean of Students Office](#)

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Synchronous teaching sessions can be recorded by the instructor for educational purposes. These recordings will be made available only to students presently enrolled in the course via password protected links. Links will be posted via the course webpages on D2L and viable for the present term only.
- Students are prohibited from sharing class recordings or disclosing the links to a class session to anyone outside of the course.
- Students have the right to protect their privacy during recordings by appearing in an audio-only mode; pseudonymous usernames can be used by students, if shared offline with the instructor.
- Instructors may retain portions of the recordings that contain their intellectual property consistent with University policy, with students' identifying information removed.