**EDT 110: Community-Research Connections, Winter 2011**

**Course description**
Learn valuable research skills in a service learning class where you can make a difference in your community. Learn the best ways to find quality information on the Internet and the Invisible Web and apply your new skills to research real-life issues and solutions. Research on specific topics along with service learning experiences will be used to provide assistance to the Project READ Literacy programs.

**Course Format**
This 10-week class will involve active participation including class demonstrations and assignments, —readiness checks, writing and reflection, in-and out-of-class research, and the group completion of a portfolio. Students will also participate in one service learning experience with Project READ.

**Expectations**
As members of this class, we expect that students and instructors will all be participating in the learning process and behaving towards one another with courtesy and respect. It is no accident that participation is listed as the first expectation — this is a very important part of the class, and your grading scale reflects that. We realize that not every student will speak up in class — so there are many ways to participate without being vocal. Participation, in this class, means: being present and on time for class, paying attention in class (not surfing the Web or doing homework), participating in discussions and activities, asking questions, offering classmates help and generally giving the class our best effort and energy. Students also need to conform to the expectations set forth in the Student Service Learning agreement and the Wright State University Code of Student Conduct (see Academic Dishonesty and Disruption section at the end of the syllabus). Due to the limited number of class periods, attendance is extremely important. Unexcused absences will result in point deductions.

**Attendance Policy**
See the attached —rubrics sheet which will be used to evaluate attendance and participation. All group work will take place in class, so attendance is extremely important.

**Communication**
Please email both instructors any time you need to communicate with us. Emails should be crafted with complete sentences. Emails to instructors should NOT look like text messages. If you email us in this manner, we will refer to this section of the syllabus and ask you to email us again.
Classroom etiquette
Please turn off your cell phones/other electronic devices before you come to class. Please do not surf the web during class, unless it is part of the research you are conducting for Project READ. If you are caught checking email, Facebook, your bank account, text messaging, etc – your grade will suffer. The bottom line is – respect yourself, your classmates and your instructors.

Homework
Late Homework will not be accepted unless arrangements are made prior to the due date! It is up to the student to contact the instructors to catch up on what was missed.

Our Service Learning Project
Students will have to demonstrate their learning though a service-learning project. The focus will be on the topic provided by Project READ, in this case assessment tools for reading tutors. Starting in Week 2, you will be required to conduct research on behalf of Project READ. You will also be required to attend a mandatory service day (date and location to be determined) during which you help Project READ secure book donations to distribute to local tutors and students. Based on these interactions, you will learn about and apply your information literacy skills.

Grading
Students’ grades will be based on a 200 point scale, broken down as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
<td>60 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio</td>
<td>40 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readiness checks</td>
<td>20 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>50 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection assignments</td>
<td>25 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Each class earns 4 pts. For a total of 36 pts.
- Service learning attendance is worth 9 pts.
- Group participation is worth 15 pts.

Grade Scale
180 to 200 pts. = A
160 to 179 pts. = B
140 to 159 pts. = C
120 to 139 pts. = D
Below 120 pts. = F
About Service Learning
Service-learning, part of the national higher education civic engagement movement, is defined at Wright State as a teaching and learning pedagogy that engages faculty, students, and community members in a partnership to:

- Achieve academic learning objectives
- Meet community needs
- Promote civic responsibility.

What is Service Learning?
“Service-learning projects represent mutually beneficial partnerships between academic courses and nonprofit organizations. The nonprofit groups will provide you with real workplace contexts for practicing the skills taught in the class, and you will provide valuable services for the organizations—services for which they could not afford to pay and which might otherwise go undone. All parties have an equal stake in the success of these projects.” – Cathy Sayer, Director of the WSU Office of Service Learning

In other words, we’ll be using our service project, conducting research for Project READ, as field experience (an active text, if you will), informing our study of information literacy and at the same time using our academic and intellectual skills to fill a real need in the community.

Why is service learning important at WSU? Being in college isn’t just about getting a degree. It is also about gaining insight and outlooks that will prepare you for citizenship in our democracy. By undertaking this service project as a Wright State student, you are helping fulfill this mission in the community.

Disability/Special Needs
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990), Wright State University and the College of Education and Human Services seeks to provide equal access to individuals with disabilities. Students who have a disability and need specific accommodations and support to facilitate full inclusion of all aspects of the course should make an appointment with the instructor during the first week of the term. To register for services, contact the Office of Disability Services at 775-6580 or 775-5844(TTY).

Academic Dishonesty and Disruption
All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in their academic careers. The WSU policy on academic honesty can be reviewed online. If you have additional questions about the Code of Conduct, please contact the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct (775-4240). Any violations of academic integrity (e.g., cheating, plagiarism, falsification of going to the service learning project, turning in the same or similar
work as a peer) will be reported to the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct. Accordingly, dependant of the violation, a student found to have violated academic integrity will receive a zero on an assignment or an F in the class.

Plagiarism is —using another person’s words or ideas without giving credit to the other person. When you use someone else’s words, you must put quotation marks around them and give the writer or speaker credit by revealing the source in a citation. Even if you revise or paraphrase the words of someone else or just use their idea, you still must give the author credit in a note. Not giving due credit to the creator of an idea or writing is very much like lying. (Harris, n.d)

There is a difference between collaborating and copying others’ work. Collaborating involves having read and understood the material, bouncing ideas off other classmates, weighing the pros and cons of a particular idea, and then forming your own thoughts and conclusions. Collaborating also requires that, based on your thoughts and conclusions, you complete the written assignment independently. This is acceptable.

Any two or more papers that have identical answers to any part of a paper is considered plagiarism. Examples of how students have submitted papers with identical answers in the past are listed below:

1. Dividing up questions and emailing the answers to other class members.
2. Having one person do all the work and giving the answers to others.
3. Not knowing enough to discuss or answer the questions and relying on others to tell you what to write
4. Any other violations as described in the Academic Policy of Wright State University

If in doubt about any academic honesty issues, please discuss the concerns with the instructor.