

Some Background

- I was asked to teach a service learning course in 2005
- I had 0% knowledge of what a SL course was!
- I was “freaked out” once I learned!
- I forged ahead.
- It proved to be a great experience and one that the students fondly remember (based on SOQs)
- I have taught the course 3 times total...once to 15 students and twice to 60-90 students.
- Today, I focus on the large class because it is nuts to think that one could use SL in a large course...BUT, you can!

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What is Service Learning?

“Service-learning is a method under which students learn and develop through thoughtfully-organized service that:

1. is conducted in and meets the **needs of a community** and is coordinated with an institution of higher education and with the community;
2. helps foster **civic responsibility**;
3. is **integrated** into and **enhances** the academic **curriculum** of the **students** enrolled; and,
4. includes structured time for students to **reflect** on the service experience”

Source: AAHE - Service-Learning in the Disciplines

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Example of University Mission and Goals

CSUF Mission and Goals:

“Through experiences in and out of the classroom, students develop the habit of intellectual inquiry, prepare for challenging professions, **strengthen relationships to their communities**, and **contribute productively to society.**”

UPS 411.600 “Policy on Service-Learning”

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Large Introductory Course Example

Earth’s Atmosphere and Oceans (GEOL 140)

- 60 to 90 students
- Course Description: The composition, structure, and circulation of the Earth's atmosphere and oceans with a general focus on their interactions. Interdisciplinary topics that highlight atmosphere-ocean interactions will include global warming, ice ages, El Nino, Southern California storm activity, and Santa Ana winds (3 hours lecture, field trips).
- some issues!
 - CSUF is a large (37,000 students) university
 - CSUF is largely a commuter based clientele
 - Many CSUF students have jobs, families, other stuff...
 - The above are all situational factors to consider as I designed the SL course.

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