Community Service Learning (CSL) Project Overview

CSL can be defined as learning within the context of service-work. The goals of the service-work are identified by, and achieved with, a community organization. Performing the work enables students to achieve learning objectives related to their academic study. Key to CSL is structured reflection during which students take time to connect the course learning objectives to their service-work experiences within, and on behalf-of, the community. Students receive responses to their reflections from mentors whose aims are to clarify confusion, underscore and disaggregate thorny or messy issues, facilitate independent problem-solving, and encourage knowledge organization and integrative, critical, and creative thinking.

CIVL 202 students are scheduled to work in teams of six or seven on CSL projects during the first half of the winter term. The teams are be expected to prepare and plan the project over a 1 month period then spend 20 to 24 hours on site to implement the project. Each CSL project falls into one of four categories:

Transportation Engineering Context **Water Engineering Context**

Disaster Relief/Mitigation Context **Humanitarian Engineering Context**

While working on a small project for an advocacy group, service organization, or government agency, you will learn about the context of one of four engineering sectors. The project may involve data collection, research, planning and testing the client's ideas, or it may involve the design and construction of a small structure.

Community Objectives:

The community objectives vary from project to project. Your project one-pager will give you this information. You and your team need to help the client achieve the community objectives.

Student Learning Objectives:

By the end of the CSL project, you should be able to:

- Work within a team environment to successfully plan and implement a project, on time and to the client's satisfaction.
- Exhibit the highest quality of professionalism when communicating with the client. (note that this means more than being polite)
- Describe the context of the project.
- Incorporate an understanding of the project context into project planning and implementation decisions.
- Organize and implement material procurement if necessary.
- Develop a safety plan if necessary.
- Schedule and manage the project completion.
- Present the final project (project closure) to the client in a professional and accessible manner.

The CIVL 202 course learning outcomes that are relevant to this assignment are:

1. Apply the processes involved in managing (planning/designing, then implementing) a project.
2. Apply and enhance verbal, graphic and written communication and presentation techniques to be applied within a design team, with clients and within small group discussions.

Project Constraints:

- The community organization should provide a conceptualization (conceptual design, written description, or whatever will most effectively communicate to students the idea for the project)
- The project should take approximately 20 team hours to plan-out and organize.
- The team should spend from 1 to 2 hours on the site of the community organization to get an orientation to the organization and the community. (If your organization is located in the DTES, UBC's Learning Exchange can provide an orientation to the community for the students.)
- The implementation of the project takes place on site and takes approx 20 hrs. of team work.
- The organization should be able to provide a 1 to 2 hours closure session for the project (eg, the students give a formal presentation of their work to members of the organization, the students are invited to a community organization event, ….)

Learning Assessment

The marks for your CSL projects will comprise of several assignments:

- **Project Blog (team)**

  The project blog, full of photos, sketches, diagrammes, drawings, and other images, documents the progress of the successful completion of the project.

- **Project Documentation Portfolio (team)**

  Careful and thorough documentation of aspects of the project (eg, meeting minutes, decision rationalization, correspondence, conceptual ideas, final details, etc.) is a must for all engineering projects. It's important that you get used to doing this now.

- **Team Interviews with Dr. Nesbit (team)**

  This is a summative assessment during which you and your team will be asked to summarize your work.

- **Client Evaluation of CSL Team Professionalism (team)**

  Your client will be asked to complete a team evaluation survey related to the teams professional conduct.

- **Peer Evaluation (Individual)**

  As part of your professional development, you are given experience in assessing the work of your peer. The consolidated evaluation data of your team performance by your peers will be used to weight all your CSL team marks.

- **Reflection Journal Entries (Individual)**

  You are asked to reflect on your CSL experiences as you begin your experiences, and then again once you have completed your service work. You will be given feedback on your reflections by a trained CSL mentor.

  Note: if you would like feedback from an expert on the quality of your individual project, you will need to take on the responsibility of arranging for this.