

## **EDST 561 (082) Practicum – Community Service Learning**

### **Winter II**

#### **Mondays\*: 4:30 to 7:30pm**

\*NB students will spend most of the term working with their community partner; we will have 2 campus-based classes at the beginning of the term and at least 2 more classes off campus during the term plus an online component for keeping connected.

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**What is the focus and purpose of this course?** This course provides an opportunity for students to explore and have a direct experience of a significant area of adult and higher education known as Community Service Learning (CSL) or Community-based Experiential Learning (CBEL). CSL and CBEL involves students working within a community-based organization on a mutually beneficial project that contributes to the goals and initiatives of community organizations and also develops students' knowledge and skills. We will begin this course with a few initial classroom sessions where we will discuss different models and critiques of CSL and CBEL including studies that have explored both students' and communities' perspectives. Students will then work in partnership with a community non-profit organization on mutually determined tasks or a project, one that benefits both the learning needs of students and the needs of the organization.

**What kinds of placements will there be?** In past CSL courses in EDST, students have worked with diverse groups such as immigrant and settlement serving agencies, adult learning centres, mental health associations, health agencies, and literacy organizations, to name a few. A partnership is being developed between EDST and the Musqueam nation so there may be opportunities for students to be engaged through that initiative. Communities will benefit by having access to students' knowledge, skills and energy; students will benefit by learning from knowledge holders in communities and contributing to their mandate and services. Partnerships with various community organizations are being developed. Students will be contacted in Winter Term I to assess their interests and areas of skill and knowledge, so that a good match can be obtained and so that placements can be arranged prior to the beginning of the WII term. I am also interested in learning if students already have an organization in mind.

**How much time is involved?** The total number of hours students will devote to this course will vary. As the instructor of the course, I will endeavor to ensure that there are reasonable expectations regarding hours worked. Traditional face to face 3 credit courses are 13 weeks long with classes of 3 hours. If you include at minimum another 3 hours of reading, class preparation and time to complete assignments, the total is closer to 6 hours each week; 6 hours over 13 weeks equals 78 hours. So that is a ball park figure that; the course would include class time, time with spent with your host and with doing the work, and time for completing assignments (e.g. a proposal for the work to be done, reflective field notes and a concluding paper).

Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor if you have questions or need clarification.