

**HON 312W /HON 320W: SIDEWALK U, WASHINGTON, D.C.:
WEALTH, POVERTY, AND HOMELESSNESS IN THE NATION'S CAPITOL
Spring Semester 2013**

Course: HON 312W/HON 320W (3 credit hours)
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Course Description:

This course is an experiential, reflective, and proactive immersion into the issues surrounding the disparity of wealth in our nation's capitol with particular attention paid to the question of homelessness. While the course includes scheduled meetings on campus, the greatest concentration of our activities will take place during the January trip to The Pilgrimage, a service learning and retreat center focused on assisting the homeless in Washington, D.C. Students will fully participate in all aspects of the trip as well as complete the writing assignments conducted there, and the final course projects they will research, complete, and present after they return to campus. The focus of the course is to facilitate a deeper understanding of the issue of homelessness and its particular presence in Washington, D.C. Some of the questions we plan to address are: What does it mean to be homeless? How does one become homeless? How prevalent a problem is homelessness in Washington, D.C. and how is it being addressed there? How is wealth dispersed overall in our nation's capitol and what relationship does this disparity have to do with homelessness? Finally, what can an individual do to address homelessness or other social issues in their home communities?

Required Readings:

Conley, Dalton. *Wealth and Poverty in America: A Reader*. (NY: Wiley-Blackwell, 2002). ISBN-10: 0631231803; ISBN-13: 978-0631231806 (chapters 6-8, 13, 15, 16-18, and 20)

Grisham, John. *The Street Lawyer*. (NY: Dell, 2010). ISBN-10: 0440245958; ISBN-13: 978-0440245957

Harris, David. *Street Corner Majesty*. (Washington DC: Author House, 2009).

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, The National Coalition for the Homeless. "A Place at the Table: Prohibitions on Sharing Food with People Experiencing Homelessness." (Washington, D.C. 2010). http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/foodsharing/Food_Sharing_2010.pdf

“The Uneven Spread of Urban Poverty” in Washington DC: an online map.
<http://www.theatlanticcities.com/jobs-and-economy/2011/12/map-day-uneven-spread-urban-poverty/721/>

National Alliance to End Homelessness. “The State of Homelessness in America 2012,”
Chapters 1-3. Appendices recommended.
<http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/the-state-of-homelessness-in-america-2012>

Trip Itinerary:

Sun., Jan 6

9 am: Meet at Daniel Boone statue to drive to DC.
9 pm: Welcome to the Pilgrimage.

Mon., Jan. 7

9 am: Orientation to the Pilgrimage with Karina Saunders.
10 am–1 pm: City as Text™ in DC.
1 pm–4 pm: Many Layers of DC Tour with Debra Frazier from *Chocolate City* and Karina Saunders.
5 pm–6 pm: Dinner at Ben’s Chili Bowl.
7 pm: Buy supplies and prepare lunches for service on Tuesday.

Tues., Jan. 8

9 am–12 pm: Service: Outreach Run with National Coalition for the Homeless.
2 pm–4 pm: Bread for the World: Advocacy Workshop.
6 pm: Group dinner.
8 pm: Memorial Tour.

Wed., Jan. 9

9 am–12 pm: Service at Capital Area Foodbank.
2 pm–4 pm: Creative Writing Workshop with David Harris.
6 pm: Group dinner and evening at Busboys and Poets.

Thur., Jan. 10

8 am–12 pm: Capitol Tour/Whitehouse Tour with meeting with a representative from KY Rep. Hal Rogers’ office.
2 pm: Leave the Pilgrimage together for the Pentagon Tour.
6 pm: Dinner in and closing workshop.

Fri., Jan. 11

All day: Explore the Smithsonian and DC in groups of at least 2!

Sat., Jan. 12

8 am: Final clean-up and check of the space.

9 am: Depart Pilgrimage and DC.

HON 320: Honors Seminar in Diversity of Perspectives & Experiences (Element 6)

Students who successfully complete this course as HON 320W will:

1. Comprehend the major concepts of the course.
2. Gather, synthesize, and critically analyze information and present it in a well-written format.
3. Verbally articulate complex information in an interesting presentation.
4. Understand the methods used in the analysis and/or expression of the experiences and perspectives of historically marginalized or underrepresented groups.
5. Consider the role(s) played by relevant social, economic, literary, and historical forces in the depiction and positioning of historically marginalized or underrepresented groups.
6. Analyze the categories of one's identity within the light of the issues raised in the course.
7. Demonstrate a writing process that produces effective documents appropriate to course level.

HON 312: Honors Seminar in the Social and Behavioral Sciences (Element 5B)

Students who successfully complete this course as HON 312W will:

1. Gather, synthesize, and critically analyze information and present it in a well-written format.
2. Verbally articulate complex information in an interesting presentation.
3. Comprehend the major concepts of the course.
4. Apply relevant concepts and theories of the social and behavioral sciences in different contexts.
5. Establish a conclusive position regarding a topic in the social and behavioral sciences and identify consequences.
6. Understand the research methods used in the social and behavioral sciences.
7. Integrate relevant information, concepts, perspectives, and principles.
8. Demonstrate a writing process that produces effective documents appropriate to course level.

Writing Intensive Designation:

Students who successfully complete this course as either HON 312W OR HON 320W will:

1. Demonstrate a writing process that produces effective documents appropriate to course level.

Specific Class Objectives:

1. Gain an understanding of how we measure and define “wealth” and “poverty” in the U.S.
2. Study how these concepts are exemplified in the case of Washington, D.C.
3. Gain a better understanding of how the homeless come to be homeless, what place the homeless occupy in our society, and what it means to be homeless.
4. Experience the kinds of services available to the homeless and work with at least one of these services.
5. Understand what it means to “advocate” and how one can participate in advocacy projects.
6. Document how one’s understanding of all of these concepts changes over the course of the trip and beyond.

Grading:

1. Conduct: 50 points. Attendance is required at ALL class and trip functions and events including pre- and post-travel class meetings. This conduct requirement includes following all instructions and advice during the travel, being on time for and participating fully (and with an open mind) in all trip events and activities, and reflecting well on EKU and EKU Honors in particular.

2. Trip journal/blog: 100 points. All students are required to keep a trip journal that they will then post on our class blog, developed by the student trip leader. While some blog entries will be in response to prompts provided by the instructors, students will also be expected to post their un-prompted thoughts, reflections, and revelations about the trip and experience in general.

2. Final research paper or advocacy project: 100 points. Your final course assignment will be either a research paper on a pre-approved topic linked to the information addressed in the class OR an advocacy project, also pre-approved, that can be done individually or in a group. Both projects require publicity of some kind, namely participation in an EKU Advocacy event on campus, presentation at an honors conference (there will be two to which you could submit), or presentation at some other pre-approved venue. A complete but not final draft of these final projects will be due in early March to allow the instructors time to comment on them before their final iterations and presentations are due.

Schedule (class meetings at EKU will be established based on the spring class schedules of the students; all class meetings at EKU are required and students who miss any of these will fail the class):

Class meeting #1

Trip orientation; watch and respond to *Chocolate Soup*.

December 5, 2012

Travel: January 6-11, 2012

Class meeting #2

January 2013: TBA

Class meeting #3

February 2013: TBA

Class meeting #4

February 2013: TBA

Project draft due date:
March 11, 2013

Final project due date:
April 26, 2013

Final presentations must have occurred by the end of spring semester, 2013.

Disability Statement: If you are registered with the Office of Services for Individuals with Disabilities, please obtain your accommodation letters from the OSID and present them to the course instructor to discuss any academic accommodations you need. If you believe you need accommodation and are not registered with the OSID, please contact the Office in the Student Services Building Room 361 by email at disserv@eku.edu or by telephone at (859) 622-2933 V/TDD. Upon individual request, this syllabus can be made available in an alternative format.