

COURSE SPECIFICATION

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

Academic School/Department: General Education

Programme: Richmond Core Curriculum – FYS Programme

FHEQ Level: 3

Course Title: London: Community and Volunteering

Course Code: FYS 3150

Course Leader: Elizabeth Long

Student Engagement Hours:	160
Field trips	5
Demonstration and practice	30
Lectures/Seminars/tutorials	25
Service learning	45
Independent/guided learning	55

Semester: Fall and Spring

Credits: 16 UK CATS credits
8 ECTS credits
4 US credits

Course Description:

Richmond's First Year Programme aims to facilitate successful student transition to the academic, social and cultural challenges of an international university in a global city. The focus of this course is on developing specific academic, personal / interpersonal and employability skills, with a major focus on service learning. Students will be helped to formulate, and experiment with, ways of achieving their academic, personal and professional short and long-term goals. They will research the context of, plan for, and, most importantly, take part in one or several community activities, then reflect on the effects, both on themselves and on others. They will look at the London community as a resource for learning. The course promotes effective habits and methods of academic study, applicable across the whole University curriculum, and engages students as active learners.

Prerequisites: None

Aims and Objectives:

The principal objective of this course is to enable students to become autonomous and reflective learners, who can assess their own capabilities and personal development against particular criteria, in order to become full participants in University life and the wider community, with a view to future employability and active citizenship. The key aims are to develop students' personal and interpersonal skills through engagement in the community; to equip students to capitalize on their strengths and to identify and work to overcome their weaknesses; to provide training and opportunities for students to reflect on what is involved in a range of academic learning processes, particularly in making oral presentations and in information literacy.

Programme Outcomes :

3Bi, 3Ci, 3Di

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by the Academic Registry and found at: <http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/academic-schools/academic-registry/program-and-course-specifications.aspx>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

1. Set achievable short-term and long-term aims for academic life and future employability, and reflect on progress towards achieving them.
2. Take part in a chosen activity in the community, and show understanding of the context of the activity, as well as engagement with and awareness of others in the community.
3. Show understanding of how one's own behaviour, skills and attitudes have adapted by getting involved.
4. Plan future degree courses with the academic advisor, based on academic progress and professional aims.
5. Understand the key skills required to make an effective oral presentation.
6. Use a range of search techniques and platforms and decide if information is relevant and appropriate for a specific academic task.

Indicative Content:

- Identifying individual short and long-term aims and reflecting on progress towards them
- London as a community: fact- finding trip
- Individual academic study techniques and use of assistance services
- Oral presentation techniques
- Planning and registering for future courses

- Information literacy
- Lectures to introduce the UK political system, nationally and locally.
- Reporting on the context of chosen social issues in the community
- Preparation for opportunities to volunteer/get involved in the community – researching, selecting and applying for a role/completion of application forms/ communication with club/organisation
- Taking part in a volunteering activity in the community
- Discussion of relevant extracts from novels relating to community issues
- Reflective writing: reflecting on personal and inter-personal skills: effect of volunteering activity

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms, approved by Academic Council on 28 June 2012.

Teaching Methodology:

During the first half of the semester, weekly class sessions will promote group discussions on a specified topic; students will be encouraged to keep an online journal recording ideas arising; sessions to practise key academic, communication and personal/interpersonal skills will take place and visiting speakers will promote aspects of political and cultural life in London. Film and book extracts will be studied to illustrate community issues. Students will undertake a fact-finding visit in London in the place of appropriate class time. Peer leaders will be available for help and advice as required.

During the second half of the semester, community activity will take the place of specified time in the classroom, and there will be regular discussions to provide support and discuss progress.

Bibliography:

Recommended Texts:

TBC – extracts from contemporary novels relating to issues in society, eg
Tarquin Hall. *Salaam Brick Lane: A Year in the New East End*. London: John Murray
2006.

Zadie Smith, *White Teeth*. London: Vintage International, 2001.

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry