

Senior Colloquium: Creating Opportunities for Equity and Social Justice

UHON 495-001 | T | 4:00-6:30 | SHC 9 | 21808

UHON 495-002 | W | 4:00-6:30 | TBA | TBA

Dr. Dawn Stracener

Plato believed that if people intellectually understood good, they would be good. Aristotle, on the other hand, felt that people would become good only if they engaged in the practice of just and virtuous actions. Classical republicanism stressed that the primary purpose of government was to promote the common good of the whole society and that civic virtue was a necessary characteristic of citizens. In our present day society there is a great deal of debate concerning how the government shapes the idea of the common good. Students in this seminar will examine their role in creating communities that promote equity and social justice defining the meaning of citizen. You will explore how issues of inequity, power relations, and institutionalized oppression often deter some citizens from finding opportunities to reach their full potential within a mutually responsible, interdependent society. Through this exploration you will learn that working towards social justice practice often requires changing unjust institutional structures and policies. As participants in this seminar, you will work with a community partner to design and implement a service learning project that establishes a more equitable distribution of power and resources so all citizens can live with dignity and self-determination. You will become agents of change in your communities.

Readings

Starving in the Shadow of Plenty, Loretta Schwartz-Nobel

Bridging the Class Divide, Linda Stout

Requirements

Active student participation in both the seminar meetings and the integrated service learning action project. Analysis of community issues; a research paper on a selected community issue (6 pages); a written proposal on the service learning action project; a portfolio documenting your project. Students registering for this colloquium are also required to register for Senior Service Learning.

About the Instructor

Dawn Stracener has a Ph.D. in Educational Thought and Sociocultural Studies with a focus on how issues of gender and class define learning environments, create identities, and construct communities. Her MA is in Modern European history with an emphasis on cultural and gender issues that have shaped modern day Western societies. Dawn has spent 14 years developing service learning as a "pedagogy of hope".