“Teaching English as a Service Learning Experience”: The Design and Implementation of a Service Learning Subject

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The 4th Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Service-Learning
OUTLINE OF TALK

(A) how a service learning subject is developed & implemented

(B) how NGOs help our students mature

(C) how teacher-student relationship evolves round the SL subject and beyond
PART (A)

how a service learning subject is developed
Reason for SL Subjects

- Studies in learning through community service in tertiary education in Hong Kong have shown that students have benefited tremendously (Chan 2012; Chan, Lee & Ma 2009; Lai, 2009; Ngai, 2006).
- PolyU introduced a compulsory SL subject under the new 4-year curriculum.
How ENGL3018 was Developed

1. Call for proposal
2. Attend EDC Workshops
3. Search the Internet for info on SL
4. Draft the proposal
SL Subject Proposal

- Types of service
- Location
- Hours of service
- NGOs
- Budget
- Assessment
- Evaluation
- Implementation

Subject Proposal

6/15/2013

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how NGOs help our students mature
Where to Find NGOs?

- ENGL
- SAO
- Social Welfare Dept
- Blessing Thai
- Baptist Church TKW
- Glorious Light
- TWGHs Tai Kok Tsui

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6/15/2013
Four NGOs collaborated with ENGL through the coordination of SAO of PolyU and the Social Welfare Department.

These four NGOs are:

- **Asian Outreach Hong Kong**
  - Glorious Light Neighbourhood Centre
  - (香港亞洲歸主協會常光睦鄰中心)

- **Blessing Thai Service Centre**
  - (基督教宣道會泰人恩福服務中心)

- **Tokwawan Baptist Church Precious Sprouts Service Centre**
  - (土瓜灣浸信會愛苗服務中心)

- **TWGH Jockey Club Tai Kok Tsui Integrated Service Centre**
  - (東華三院賽馬會大角咀綜合服務中心)
Collaboration (1)

SAO helped coordinate several meetings which were held before the semester started.

SWD helped us pick the NGOs:
- location of the centres (near PolyU)
- kinds of service the NGO centres needed
- mixed backgrounds of the NGOs

Concerns:
- tight schedule (40 hours of service within two/three months)
- students’ commitment
Collaboration (2)

- A get-together session at beginning of semester (Week 2)
- SWD & the four NGOs paid a class visit:
  - two videos 🎥 🎥
  - presentations by NGOs / site visits by students
- Each NGO has a designated coordinator.
- Teachers paid regular visits to the classes and were in touch with the coordinators most of the time.
• One group of student who took ENGL3018 did a video clip about service learning as an assignment for another subject they took.
• Watch this video (about 5 minutes):
  - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TsjtdKi5AM&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TsjtdKi5AM&feature=youtu.be)
More from our Students

- What students have learned from the service learning experience?
- Through their own words:
  - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRuNgYoD87c
  - http://funstuff.engl.polyu.edu.hk/ServiceLearning/?page_id=2
PART (C)

how teacher-student relationship evolves round the SL subject and beyond
Teacher-student Relation (1)

- Class structure very different from other subjects.
  - very few lectures
  - a lot of small group seminar discussion
  - mostly site visits
  - feedback sessions after site visits (over breakfast, lunch, or dinner)
- Need more than one teacher (depending on class size)
- Need very dedicated teachers !!!
Teacher-student Relation (2)

COMMUNICATION

HEART

PERSEVERANCE

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Teacher-student Relation (3)

- Close encounter with the students outside the classroom ➔ know them more intimately
- Reward students’ hard work:
  - a certificate
  - nominate them for the Community Service Learning Awards 2011/12
- Engage them in more service learning projects / events
SL Activities beyond ENGL3018

Jan – April 2012 & 2013
ENGL3018
“Teaching English as a Service Learning Experience”
(22 + 16 students)

May 2012
Shaanxi Primary School Teaching Support Programme
(10 ENGL students joining a group of 40 PolyU students)

July 2012
Xinjiang Turpan English Summer Camp (7 students)
Gaoming English Summer Camp (3 students)
To publicize what our students have done and to facilitate understanding of SL, a website is developed entitled “Service Learning Experiences in the Department of English”:

http://funstuffengl.polyu.edu.hk/ServiceLearning/
Some photos
Some videos

- Links to our videos
References


Thanks to:

- PolyU Task Force on Service Learning
- DLTC of ENGL of Hong Kong PolyU
- PolyU SAO colleagues
- SWD, Asian Outreach HK Glorious Light Neighbourhood Centre, Blessing Thai Service Centre, Esquel-Y.L. Yang Education Foundation Limited, Tokwawan Baptist Church Precious Sprouts Service Centre, and TWGH Jockey Club Tai Kok Tsui Integrated Service Centre
- Jesmine Lau (ENGL) who helped organize the Turpan & Goaming trips
- Debbie Tsoi, part-time Student Helper for the SL project
- Students who took ENGL3018
- Students who participated in the Shaanxi Project, Turpan English Summer Camp & Goaming English Summer Camp
- Team of students from COMP who helped develop the SL website
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