

LL 302 EXTERNSHIP SEMINAR

Subject to change – Spring 2004

Faculty: Susan Reed; School for New Learning; 25 E. Jackson; Chicago, Illinois 60604
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Location/Time: Loop Campus, Every other Tuesday, 6:00-9:00

Competencies: L-10 Can reflect on the learning process and methods used in an experiential project.
L-11 *competence written by student*

Books: *Peak Learning* by Ronald Gross

Course Description: This seminar is designed to guide you through your Externship Project. This project helps you to become a more effective learner by encouraging you to use a variety of learning methods in order to learn something of your choice. In this class, we will study learning theory, discuss journal writing. While you will be working independently throughout the quarter, we will meet five times to review our progress, problem solve as well as develop the aforementioned skills that will facilitate your work.

Course Requirements:

1. Class attendance and participation
2. Externship proposal
3. Readings and related assignments
4. Journal

About the Instructor: Susan Reed is member of the SNL Resident Faculty and earned her PH.D. from Northwestern University. She has taught urban policy for many years and has several publications in the area of mental health and long-term care.

Academic Integrity Policy: This course will be conducted in accordance with the University's guidelines on academic integrity that may be found in the Student Handbook.

Class Schedule

March 30

Introduction to the Course

Brainstorming topics

What have I always wanted to learn?

Designing a learning project

Goals

Prior knowledge

Learning Style

Learning methods

Finding resources

Results

Establishing criteria for assessment

Assignments:

1) Reread Chapter 10 of *Peak Learning*

2) Journal assignment: Answer each of the questions that are applicable on p. 220, not in the succinct, finished way that the author does. Take this opportunity to free write your thoughts. You'll polish them for your proposal.

3) Prepare proposal (one to two pages) for your Externship (see form on the web page):

What do you want to *learn*? Why?

How will you learn it?

What *readings* will relate this experience to your SNL domain?

What will be your final *products*?
Journal: What learning will you reflect upon?
What is your *competence statement*?

April 6

Outcome 1: *Can apply a **model of learning** from experience to reflect on, articulate and analyze what one learned from a particular experience.*

How personal history shapes learning objectives

Kolb's learning cycle

Assignments

1. Reread Chapter 5 in *Peak Learning*
2. Reread Chapter 7 in *Peak Learning*
Journal Assignments:
3. Complete each of the exercises in Chapters 5 and 7.
4. Describe each of your learning experiences (for your Externship) in detail. Follow each description with discussion of your feelings about the experience. Follow that by emphasizing what you learned (including things you didn't expect to learn).
5. Describe each reading experience. Follow each description with discussion of your thoughts and feelings about the reading. Follow that by emphasizing what you learned.

April 20

Outcome 2: *Can compare and contrast **learning styles** and strategies used for the project against one's learning preference.*

Learning Style Inventory

Developing your learning portfolio

Assignments:

1. Continue to journal about each of your learning and reading experiences
2. In your journal, discuss how your experiences relate to what you're reading

May 11

Outcome 3: *Can **assess the method(s)** used in terms of its strengths and weaknesses for achieving one's learning goals.*

Developing facility with a variety of learning methods

- the benefits and limitations of experiential learning
- the difference between theory and practice
- Journaling as a learning method

Assignments:

1. Continue to journal about each of your learning and reading experiences.
2. Reread what you have written in your journal so far.

June 1

Outcome 4: *Can identify potential **applications** of what one learned to new circumstances.*

Evaluating your learning project

After the degree: learning in everyday life

Assignments

1. Write in your journal about your learning project. What could you have done differently? What have you learned about planning learning projects? Was your journal an effective learning tool?

Externship Project due: June 4