

**CLHU-U257-001: Greek Culture**  
**Professor Lori Ranner**  
**Service learning project description**

Mr. Sklepas lives at St. Margaret's nursing home. He was born in a village not far from Athens in 1945. As a young man, Mr. Sklepas came to America and had a successful career in the shipping industry. He has a wife, 1 stepson and 2 grandchildren. Mr. Sklepas can be a bit shy at first, but becomes quite talkative as you get to know him. He is enthusiastic about politics (U.S., European, global) and is knowledgeable about all things Greek, including language; sports; Greek Orthodox religion; food; history; literature; education; mythology; holidays; geography and regions of Greece; music, dance, theater and other arts; economics, etc. Mr. Sklepas has visits from his wife and one friend. He has quite a lot of free time aside from occasional medical appointments. Mr. Sklepas does not have mobility below the waist.

Participating students will be expected to:

1. Plan a small number of visits throughout the semester to Mr. Sklepas at St. Margaret's. Each student participating in the project will be expected to make **at least one** visit to Mr. Sklepas at St. Margaret's.
  - Students must visit in small groups of 2 or 3. Students should submit a schedule of visits to the St. Margaret's staff by **September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009**. If any visits need to be re-scheduled, this must be done at least 2 weeks in advance. On the morning of each visit, a student from the visiting group should call St. Margaret's to make sure that Mr. Sklepas is available and feeling well enough for a visit. Visits must not conflict with Mr. Sklepas' care, well-being or other activities.
2. Each visiting group should prepare a list of possible questions and conversation topics in advance of their visit to Mr. Sklepas. Groups should avoid repeating previous questions and conversation topics. Students should submit this list to Professor Ranner and seek her advice about questions and topics relevant to course material.
3. Keep a record of their conversations with Mr. Sklepas through careful notetaking and/or through some other media (photography, sound recording, or videocamera). Share this with other students participating in the project.
  - Prior to taking photographs or recordings, students should ask permission from Mr. Sklepas. Students should make efforts not to photograph or record other residents at St. Margaret's. Videocameras, still cameras, and digital voice recorders are available for checkout to Loyola students (for a 24 hour period) at Media Services in Monroe Library. Students are responsible for obtaining necessary equipment prior to visits.
4. Work as a group to plan and execute a culminating project.
  - Suggestions include (1) preparing a memoir for Mr. Sklepas in the form of a video or book about his life; or (2) planning and executing a short activity or event on Greek culture for the other residents at St. Margaret's. Other suggestions for a culminating project are welcome. Students should consult with Mr. Sklepas, Professor Ranner, St. Margaret's staff, and the Office of Service Learning about other ideas. **All students participating in the project will be expected to contribute to the culminating project.**
5. As a group, participants will submit a written progress report to Professor Ranner in class on **October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009**.
  - This progress report should describe what has been accomplished and what still needs to be done. The progress report should also identify what the group has chosen to do for its culminating project (if this will be an event at St. Margaret's a date must be included).
6. Each individual student participating in the project will write a final reflection paper, due to Professor Ranner by **December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009**. This paper will ask you to think about a course theme in the context of your service learning experience.

- The service learning project as a whole – visits, culminating project, and reflection paper – will take the place of two research papers in Professor Ranner’s class. Students participating in the service learning project will not be required to submit the second research paper for Professor Ranner’s class, and the final reflection paper will take the place of the third research paper.
7. Work together as a group to gather any necessary supplies for the project.
    - If receipts are submitted to the Office of Service Learning, students may be reimbursed up to \$100 in project expenses. Expenses might include: transportation; supplies for the culminating project; books, maps or other materials about Greece and/or Greek culture to share or discuss with Mr. Sklepas; treats for Mr. Sklepas (Greek language publications, Greek foods or snacks), etc.
  8. Show compassion, respect and care for all the residents of St. Margaret’s.
  9. Dress and act in an appropriate and mature manner during all visits to St. Margaret’s.
  10. Sign in and sign out at the main desk at St. Margaret’s at the beginning and end of each visit.
  11. Every student who successfully participates in the project will receive a service learning transcript notation at the end of the semester.

Staff members at St. Margaret’s will be expected to:

1. Communicate with students in a timely and responsive manner about scheduling visits with Mr. Sklepas. The primary contact at St. Margaret’s is Manda Mountain: 504-279-6414, [mmountain@stmargaretsno.org](mailto:mmountain@stmargaretsno.org). Manda will provide contact information for other key people as necessary.
2. Consult and coordinate on the culminating project. If this includes an activity or event for the residents at St. Margaret’s, work with students to schedule and publicize.
3. Visit CLHU-U257-001 once **prior to September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009** for an initial orientation discussion with students in the class. Topics may include: the special needs of elders and nursing home residents in general and Mr. Sklepas in particular; the history and mission of St. Margaret’s; the population served by St. Margaret’s; tips on interacting with elders and nursing home residents; ideas for the culminating project, etc.
4. Provide feedback to Professor Ranner on students’ work.
5. Facilitate students’ entry into St. Margaret’s and verify students’ participation via sign-in/sign-out logs.
6. Escort each visiting group to Mr. Sklepas’ room and make a brief introduction.

Professor Lori Ranner will be expected to:

1. Work to integrate students’ visits with Mr. Sklepas into class discussions and create connections between course material and students’ service learning activities.
2. Allow some class time for students to work on scheduling and planning their visits to Mr. Sklepas.
3. Review each visiting group’s list of questions and conversation topics and make suggestions relevant to course material.
4. Schedule one in-class visit by St. Margaret’s and OSL staff prior to **September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009**.
5. Review feedback from Mr. Sklepas, St. Margaret’s staff and the Office of Service Learning throughout the semester.
6. Review the group’s progress report (due **October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009**) and provide feedback by the following class session.
7. Assign and review final reflection papers.
8. Assign grades for the service learning project. The service learning project as a whole – visits, culminating project, and reflection paper – will take the place of two research papers in Professor Ranner’s class. Students participating in the service learning project will not be required to submit the second research paper, and the final reflection paper will take the place of the third research paper.

The Office of Service learning will be expected to:

1. Consult and coordinate with students, Professor Ranner, and St. Margaret's staff throughout the project and provide support as necessary.
2. Attend initial class visit by St. Margaret's staff in order to explain service learning to students and distribute and collect liability waivers.
3. Review the culminating project (if possible, attend/participate).
4. With submission of appropriate receipts, reimburse up to \$100 in expenses associated with the project. Expenses might include: transportation expenses (see below); supplies for the culminating project; books, maps or other materials about Greece and/or Greek culture to share or discuss with Mr. Sklepas; treats for Mr. Sklepas (Greek language publications, Greek foods or snacks), etc.
5. Ensure that every student who successfully completes the project receives a transcript notation at the end of the semester as a record of his/her service learning work.

Transportation details:

- St. Margaret's is at 3419 St. Claude Avenue, at the intersection with Desire St. This is in the Bywater neighborhood of New Orleans, about a 15 minute drive from Loyola. Any student who volunteers to use his/her personal vehicle to drive a small group to St. Margaret's for a visit will be given a prepaid gas card to reimburse fuel costs. This will count toward the \$100 in project expenses.
- St. Margaret's is also accessible from several RTA bus lines (#88, #5, #57). Consult [www.norta.com](http://www.norta.com) for details. Students wishing to use RTA to get to St. Margaret's can pick up free RTA tokens in the Office of Service Learning. This trip may take up to 1 hour, depending on RTA schedules.

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I/we understand all the expectations stated above. We commit ourselves to meeting these expectations and making this project a valuable experience for Loyola students, Mr. Sklepas, and St. Margaret's nursing home.

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St. Margaret's Staff

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Professor Lori Ranner

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Kelly Brotzman, Office of Service Learning

Participating students:

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