

First Year Seminar: Protest and Pop Music (ENGL-V193-F01)

Professor Robert Bell

Service learning project description

Sojourner Truth Academy is an open enrollment charter high school in New Orleans. 2009-2010 will be STA's second year in operation. During the 2008-2009 school year, it enrolled 100 9th graders. This year, those students will return as 10th graders and there will be 100 new 9th graders. This process will continue until STA has four full classes of 9th-12th graders. STA is getting settled into a new location this year in the historic and culturally rich neighborhood of Treme. STA will occupy the 3rd floor of Joseph S. Clark High School at 1301 North Derbigny Street, near the intersection of Esplanade and North Claiborne.

Part of Sojourner Truth Academy's mission is to educate its students about social justice. A small group of sophomores will be enrolled in Art 2, taught by Mr. Phillip Spence. These students took an introductory art class with Mr. Spence last year and showed unique promise as artists. STA students and Loyola students will participate in a two-way service-learning project about art, music and social change.

Loyola students will be expected to:

1. Work in two groups to develop two 30-40 minute interactive, multimedia presentations. Each presentation should be focused on a song, a musical artist, or a musical genre which was/is actively engaged in some form of social protest. Students should choose the song/artist/genre in consultation with Professor Bell. Presentations should cover not only the basics about their chosen song/artist/genre, but also the nature of the social protest and the relevant cultural and historical contexts. Presentations may include musical clips, photos, videos, etc. Students are encouraged to be creative with the format of the presentations.
2. Gear both presentations toward the Art 2 students, a culturally literate audience of 10th graders. Presentations should be entertaining and informative. They should also provoke discussion, interaction, and active participation.
3. Designate a subgroup of students to deliver the first presentation on Loyola's campus on **Friday, September 25th**. The presentation will begin at 1:30 pm and should end at 2:20 pm.
4. Designate a subgroup of students to deliver the second presentation at Sojourner Truth Academy on **Friday, October 23rd at 2:00 pm**. All students who are able should attend this presentation, but the designated students will present. Transportation will be provided to and from Loyola. Students who will be going to STA should plan to leave Loyola at 1:30 pm.
5. Attend class on **Monday, November 23rd**. On this day, Art 2 students at Sojourner Truth will deliver an interactive, multimedia presentation of their own. This presentation will take up the whole class on 11/23. Do not be late and do not plan to leave early.
6. Designate a subgroup of students to work with the Admissions Office at Loyola to arrange a campus tour for STA students immediately **after the presentation on November 23rd**. This subgroup should also accompany the STA students on their tour and answer questions about college life and Loyola.
7. Submit regular progress reports to Professor Bell about the presentations.
8. Work together to procure any necessary supplies. Media equipment may be available through Monroe Library's Media Services desk.

9. Interact with STA students and staff in a friendly, respectful way.
10. Dress and act in an appropriate and mature manner during all STA/Loyola visits.
11. Complete a short reflection assignment on the project at the end of the semester.
12. Every student who successfully completes the project will receive a transcript notation at the end of the semester.

Art 2 students at Sojourner Truth Academy will be expected to:

1. Participate in two field trips to Loyola, one on **Friday, September 25th** and another on **Monday, November 23rd, 2009**. During the first field trip, students will hear a presentation by Loyola students and get a campus tour.
2. Attend a second presentation by Loyola students at Sojourner Truth Academy at 2:00 pm on **Friday, October 23rd**.
3. Work together as a group to develop a 30-40 minute interactive multimedia presentation which depicts their social world. Students are encouraged to include music (original music or clips/lyrics from music written by others) in their presentation, as well as other art forms. This presentation should also touch on themes of social critique, social protest, social justice, etc. Students should develop their presentations in consultation with Mr. Spence. This presentation will be delivered during the second field trip to Loyola, on **Monday, November 23rd, 2009**. The audience for this presentation will be approximately 20 Loyola freshmen enrolled in Professor Robert Bell's First Year Seminar (course title: Protest and Pop Music).
4. The presentation on **November 23rd** will count as a community service activity for Art 2 students.

Staff at Sojourner Truth Academy will be expected to:

1. Communicate with Loyola students, Professor Bell, and the Office of Service Learning in a timely and responsive manner throughout the semester. The primary contacts at Sojourner Truth Academy are Phillip Spence (202-725-0912, phillip@philliprspence.com), Lauren Katz (504-352-6330, lkatz@nolatruth.org) and Channa Cook (principal, 504-352-6330, channa.cook@gmail.com).
2. Facilitate two field trips by Art 2 students to Loyola, one on **Friday, September 25th** and another on **Monday, November 23rd, 2009**. Support may include: arranging transportation, obtaining necessary permissions, etc.
3. Secure space and equipment for Loyola students' visit to Sojourner Truth on **Friday, October 23rd** at 2:00 pm.
4. Mr. Spence will be expected to work with Art 2 students to develop their presentation at Loyola on **November 23rd, 2009**.

Professor Robert Bell will be expected to:

1. Work to integrate service learning activities and events into class discussions and create connections to course material.
2. Give students some class time to work on their presentations. Provide guidance to Loyola students on the content of their presentations.
3. Help Loyola students divide into groups and subgroups as described above.
4. Monitor students' progress on the presentations.
5. Review feedback from STA staff and students and the Office of Service Learning throughout the semester.
6. Assign and review a short reflection.
7. Review the final outcomes of the project and assign grades to Loyola students. Grades on the service learning project will count for 15% of students' grades in the course.

The Office of Service Learning will be expected to:

1. Consult and coordinate with Loyola students, Professor Bell, and STA staff and students throughout the project and provide support as necessary.
2. If possible, attend all visits and presentations.
3. Attend one session of Professor Bell's class **prior to September 11th, 2009** to distribute and collect liability waivers and explain service learning.
4. Help Loyola students with transportation arrangements for their visit to Sojourner Truth on **October 23rd**.
5. Provide 20 disposable cameras to Phillip Spence for Art 2 students to use.
6. Cover up to \$100 in other expenses associated with each project (***only with submission of appropriate receipts***). Transportation expenses (e.g., van rental) will count toward this total.
7. Ensure that every Loyola 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.

