Course Description

This course considers community engagement in conjunction with the material from FCS 3370-001, Parenting Across Cultures. In that course, we will consider parenting practices across diverse cultures around the world and within the United States. Both courses draw on research from several disciplines to inform students’ understanding of parenting in diverse cultures. The interdisciplinary approach examines how evolution and geographic, political, religious, cultural, and economic characteristics of a community affect specific childrearing approaches and practices. The goal of the 3904-Modes of Learning – Community Engaged Learning is to apply what you learn in the FCS 3370 course to interactions with diverse youth and their parents in our local community. Your experiences in the community will also inform your understanding of parenting across cultures.

What is Community-Engaged Learning?

- a method by which students learn through active participation in thoughtfully organized service in the community.
- experiential education in which students engage in activities that address human and community needs together with structured opportunities intentionally designed to promote student learning and development.
- Involves reflection and reciprocity.
- applies theories and concepts learned in class (in FCS 3370) to an experience in the community.
- enables student to get vital experience outside the classroom.

What does the community engaged option entail?

You will provide your time, skills and service to a community organization serving diverse children and families. The community engagement requires that you commit 2 hours per week to one of several community service projects. These projects will enable you to gain hands on experience with individuals from diverse ethnic backgrounds. Many of them are immigrants and/or refugees from all over the world. You will also complete weekly reflections.

Why should you take the community engaged option?

- Gain real world experience and build connections in the community
- Build your resume and job skills
- Enrich others’ lives and your own life
- Give back to your community
- It’s amazing and will change your life!