



Literacy and Learning in the Community (EN150)

Literacy and Learning in the Community is a service learning module specially designed to facilitate US visiting students at National University of Ireland, Galway. The class is delivered by the School of English in association with CELT (the Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching) and the International Affairs Office.

Literacy and Learning in the Community is a semester long module worth 5 ECTS credits (2.5 Arcadia credits) and is delivered via:

- 24 hours of academic lectures (2 hours per week for 12 weeks)
- 12 hours of reflective seminars (1 hour per week)
- 20+ hours of service in local community homework clubs (10 weeks)

Learning Outcomes

Students gain an improved understanding of important theories and perspectives relating to literacy acquisition and how Irish society responds to the challenges associated with this important educational and social issue.

Students will also benefit from experiential learning of how local homework clubs in the Galway area provide support and structure for children to develop their learning and literacy skills; additionally, they will develop an appreciation of the relationship between the university and these voluntary organizations in respect of the concepts of civic engagement and service learning. Additionally, students will develop an ability to reflect on the academic content of the course and relate it to their personal experience in community homework clubs.

Assessment

Students are required to complete an essay in examination conditions at the end of the course, which counts for 30% of the overall grade awarded. In addition, students are required to submit a detailed portfolio of reflective learning, which counts for 50% of the overall grade. Students are given regular journal assignments which are informed by their reading of specific academic texts relating to the subject of service learning and literacy acquisition as well as by their first-hand experiences at their service placements. The remaining 20% of marks is based on attendance and participation in both the formal classes which take place each week of the semester and at the students' chosen homework clubs.