In this class, we will study the complex issues of hunger and homelessness. Many of our class discussions, readings, and writing assignments will relate to these topics, helping us better understand their severity. The course will also merge community-based volunteer experience with class assignments. You will be required to complete six hours of service at local agencies as part of your coursework. You also have the option of enrolling in PRD: Learning Through Service to receive an additional hour of credit by completing additional service hours and coursework. For further information, contact Donna Halsband, Academic Service-Learning Coordinator at 984-7893.

Required Textbooks:

Course Description:
College Composition I is designed to meet the writing needs of a wide variety of students in the following ways: 1) prepares students who will continue in college to write acceptable college-level expository essays; 2) provides career students with a strong base for business and technical writing; 3) familiarizes all students with the kinds of writing skills that will be valuable in their everyday experience; 4) provides students with some awareness of the way language functions and affects their lives. To help reach these goals, the course will focus on the elements of clear writing, well-organized expository essays, the necessary critical thinking that must always precede expository writing, analytical reading, and, when necessary, a review of the principles of grammar.

Learning Objectives:
1. Understand words as a center of writing and communicating, what a dictionary and thesaurus offer, and the social reality of dialects
2. Discriminate among informal/formal and general/specific levels of diction and appropriate usage
3. Understand and demonstrate college-level writing produced through a process of prewriting, drafting, revising and editing
4. Understand the application of skills learned in Composition 101 to workplace and other academic departments
5. Be able to use extra-course resources of the College such as the Writing Center, computer lab(s), and the library
6. Write clear, precise, concise expository prose in Edited American English
7. Demonstrate ability to read critically and respond to non-fiction selections
8. Demonstrate critical thinking in exposition

Course Requirements:
Assignments include:

- Autobiography Essay
- Observation Essay
- Informative Essay
- Proposal Essay
- Writing for Change

Journals:
You will be required to complete a Service-Learning reflection journal discussing your experiences at your service site. I will give you a list of questions that prompt you to reflect on your service. Each response = one journal entry. Each journal entry should be about one page long, typed and double-spaced.

Discussion Board:
This class will have a discussion board on Blackboard that will be used as a forum to share experiences you have at service sites, thoughts about issues covered in class, assignments, etc. The idea is to use the discussion board to continue conversations that begin in class, or raise ideas or questions that come to you outside of class. You will need to post a minimum of one entry per week, beginning in week 4.

Other Resources:
Jo Goodwin Parker, “What is Poverty?” (handout)
P.W. Alexander, “Christmas at Home” (handout)

Potentially Useful Web sites:
- America’s Second Harvest (http://secondharvest.org)
- Assistant Secretary for Planning & Evaluation (http://aspe.hhs.gov/)
- Bread for the World (http://bread.org)
- FreeDonation.com (http://freedonation.com)
- Joint Center for Poverty Research (http://jcpr.org)
- Missouri Student Public Interest Research Group (http://mopirg.org/student/)
- National Coalition for the Homeless (http://www.nationalhomeless.org)
- National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (http://www.nlchp.org/)
- Nat’l Student Campaign Against Hunger & Homelessness (http://www.nscahl.org/)
- St. Louis Area Foodbank (http://www.slafb.org/)
- U.S. Conference of Mayors (http://www.usmayors.org)
- World Hunger Year (WHY) (http://worldhungeryear.org)

Local Organizations’ Web sites:
- Circle of Concern (http://www.circleofconcern.org)
- Food Outreach (http://foodoutreach.org)
- Operation Food Search (http://operationfoodsearch.org/)
- SLU Campus Kitchen (http://www.dccentralkitchen.org/ckp/slu/home.html)
- St. Patrick Center (http://www.stpatrickcenter.org)