



Academic host programme

Political Transformation and Governance

Departments

- Political Transformation and Governance
- Public Management
- Communication Science
- Political Science

Study year of students

Third year

Credits: 8

Module offered during

Second semester

Lecturers

Dr Tania Coetzee



SDL322

Service Learning in Political Transformation

Brief description

The aim of this module is to expose students to the study of problems within political management. The focus is on the explanation and analysis of the relationship between the ward councillors and communities in different local municipalities in different provinces.

Students need to understand the governance processes and must be able to identify good governance practices. Aspects such as responsibility, accountability, trust, coordination and cooperation are important, especially at municipal level (local government) sphere.

The implementation of policies at municipal level is not up to standard and students assist the community and the ward councillors to identify their own projects. An improvement of the relationship between the community, the ward councillors and ward committees is one of the most important issues to be addressed by the students in service learning. Students learn more about the practical implications and fine tuning of governance and political management at municipal level.

Community partners

- Residents of Bainsvlei Ward 26
- Residents of Mangaung Wards 10, 14 and 15
- Residents of Turflaagte Wards 11 and 14

Service sector partners

- Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality
- Ward Councillors of Bainsvlei, Mangaung and Turflaagte

Service learning component

Firstly, this module entails the compilation of a community profile, which includes the demographics and recent census information. Secondly, students attend a workshop where the representatives of the community, community leaders and services sector are present. During this workshop, students determine the community's challenges and also what he/she can contribute to these challenges.

Outcomes for students

Students contribute to good governance through the knowledge and experience gained in the community. Students learn from the constituent community on how they experience political management, governance and liberal democracy. Students also learn how to interact with unfamiliar communities and that perceptions and assumptions about people decrease productivity and development.

Impact on community

The community obtain a better understanding of the theoretical framework of political management and the difficulties of implementing decisions. Improved communication between the community and municipalities ensure the manifestation of a liberal democracy as well as the underlying values of liberal democracy. The community is made aware of whom their leaders and representatives in the ward committees of the municipality are. The community's challenges, problems and disputes are also identified and discussed. They also ensure the accountability of public servants to members of the community.