

LEARNING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OVERVIEW FORM

Project title	Diverse communities: implications for professional practice		Project ID No	CLAD – HIST076
Strategy area/theme	Skills development			
Start date	June 2003	Completion date	March 2003	
Project type	Learner enhancement project			
Level	Masters	Programme of study		
Aims	<p>To create a postgraduate module using WebCT to encourage self-directed learning using the diverse communities in the City of Birmingham as a learning resource to develop anti-oppressive reflective social work practice.</p> <p>The educational purpose of the project tackles the issues of preparing social work students to work in a team environment, develop the skills to interact and empathise with members of Birmingham’s diverse communities and to reflect upon and research the barriers that they face in accessing appropriate social work services. Through the delivery of this module the students will have the opportunity to develop professional abilities such as accurate recording, ICT, co-operative working, time management and report writing skills. By emulating as closely as possible “real world” issues and circumstances students prior to going out on their first assessed practice will have the opportunity to learn how to link issues of theory and practice, they will also be able to experience at first hand the realities of working with members of socially excluded communities.</p>			
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collate and develop a web-based resource that provides links to at least twenty websites providing information about the current and historical formation of Britain’s diverse communities.</li> <li>2. Collate and develop web-based resources that provide links to websites that explore the demographic, cultural and political aspirations of Britain’s diverse communities. (In the first instance these sites must cover the seven communities explored in the module).</li> <li>3. Create action-learning sets and allocate time within the module for student groups to make contact with members of the local communities they have been assigned and to research the barriers they face to accessing appropriate social work services.</li> <li>4. Create and provide formal lectures to introduce the module, sociological and psychological concepts for Diverse Communities and the processes of professional reflection with supporting web-based lecture notes.</li> <li>5. Develop ICT skills by introducing students to computer clusters, web search engines and an introductory course to using WebCT.</li> <li>6. Collate and provide web-based links to online government and voluntary agency reports that highlight the issues and statistics of social exclusion in Britain.</li> </ol>			

Overview	<p>This project focuses on using WebCT to develop a post-graduate module run by four members of the Social Work programme. The module will concentrate on the development of skills and knowledge necessary to develop competent social work practice in working with Britain's diverse communities. A student-centred, self-directed learning approach will be managed through the WebCT environment. A blended approach of traditional lectures, module tasks, student enquiry, web-based discussion groups, student presentations and access to supplementary web-based materials will provide the core foundation for the delivery of the module.</p>
Further Information	<p>For further information on this project please contact CLAD at University of Birmingham</p> <p><a href="mailto:cladprojects@contacts.bham.ac.uk">cladprojects@contacts.bham.ac.uk</a> quoting CLAD projects HIST076</p>