



CLASI

Constitutional Literacy
& Service Initiative

Information sheet

Constitutional Literacy and Service Initiative

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WHAT IS CLASI?

The Constitutional Literacy and Service Initiative (**'CLASI'**) is a constitutional law-based programme that takes place in local schools in the Southern Suburbs. The aim of this programme is to teach high school learners about their basic constitutional rights and other constitutional law mechanisms relating to the governance of our country.

As a registered non-governmental organisation, we aim to raise awareness about citizen's constitutional rights. CLASI focuses on working predominantly with historically disadvantaged communities in Cape Town, but schools of various backgrounds are invited to partake in the programme presented. Law students from the University of Cape Town, as part of a credit-bearing experiential learning opportunity, receive skills training to serve as Teaching Fellows in multiple schools around Cape Town, teaching constitutional literacy classes and engaging high school learners and the communities of which they are a part about the Constitution through workshops, public discussion, and advocacy. The engagement of these populations is critical to building a successful pro-democracy and pro-constitutional movement within South Africa and to further our constitutional ideals.

THE NATURE OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF UCT STUDENTS

Law students from UCT will serve as volunteer Teaching Fellows. This position requires them to facilitate workshops, classes, public debates and moot competitions in under-resourced schools and community centers around the Southern Suburbs. Each student is paired up with two to three partners and will visit the participating schools on a weekly or biweekly basis, unless otherwise arranged with the school. Students will present set lessons to the learners and will aim to create an interactive atmosphere with the learners to allow them to take away the key information of each lesson.

Our law students participate mainly in a teaching capacity within smaller groups and will visit the schools participating in the programme to give the lessons to the learners in their

Life Orientation classes, or as otherwise arranged with the school. Students are given the lesson plans and are given the discretion to direct the class participation and discussion in any appropriate way as relevant to conveying the core ideas of the teaching material. Students will be involved with other students (their teaching partners) and with the school learners that they present the lessons to.

OUR CURRICULUM & LESSONS

CLASI has a set curriculum that it seeks to present to all learners involved in this programme. A range of constitutional topics are presented, and the focus is on human rights. Students will aim to give learners a very practical understanding of our Bill of Rights, particularly how it applies to the scenarios of the learners. Find attached the **eleven lessons** that form part of the CLASI curriculum, these lessons each address the following content of constitutional law:

- **Lesson no. 1** – Introduction to the Constitution;
- **Lesson no. 2** – Transformation;
- **Lesson no. 3** – Political transformation;
- **Lesson no. 4** – Democracy, accountability and public participation;
- **Lesson no. 5** – Social transformation;
- **Lesson no. 6** – Limitation of rights;
- **Lesson no. 7** – The right to human dignity and life;
- **Lesson no. 8** – Introduction to equality;
- **Lesson no. 9** – Introduction to socio-economic rights;
- **Lesson no. 10** – The right to education;
- **Lesson no. 11** – The right to freedom of expression.

PLANS FOR THE SECOND SEMESTER (2019)

Below are the abstract plans regarding the arrangements for CLASI for the second semester of 2019. This includes information on the sign-up process, the training day, the teaching sessions at the schools and the debriefing sessions at the end of the semester.

Sign-up for CLASI & the Vula tab

Students were invited to apply for participation in CLASI for the period from the day after the June exam period ended up until the **19th of July 2019**. Students were required to e-mail Rozelle Wentzel with their names, student number, and e-mail address. Students were notified that their application was received and then added to an Excel spreadsheet until the due date for applications have passed.

Students have then been added to a Vula tab ('CLASI 2019') through which they will receive announcements and information regarding their participation in CLASI. This Vula tab will be used to facilitate the necessary polls, allow students to sign up for the training day, the sessions at the schools, and the debriefing sessions. Monitoring of hours completed will also be done via the Gradebook, and this tab will allow easy submission of community service forms to the student supervisor.

Volunteer training day

The first main session for CLASI is the volunteer training day. This consists out of a Saturday where all volunteers gather in a venue at UCT for a workshop on how to be CLASI Teaching Fellow. This consists out of an information session where the nature of CLASI will be explained, how the programme works, how the schools' sessions will take place, information on keeping track of their community service hours and all other relevant information. Refreshments will be served followed by a question and answer session as well as a practical workshop on how to present a lesson to a class. The date for this training day is the **27th of July 2019**, from **09h00 to 17h00** and will take place in the Kramer Building.

Sessions at schools

The main contact between the students and the school learners will take place during the school sessions where the students present the above lessons. Students will go to the schools on a weekly or biweekly basis (or as arranged with the school) to present these lessons to a range of learners from Grade 8 to Grade 12 during their Life Orientation period. A staff member will be present in each class with the students and the learners for oversight but may be requested to leave by the students if they feel they can manage the class on their own or that the learners are more interactive if they are without a formal teacher present. Students are required to meet up with their partners before presenting the lesson to have a cohesive lesson planned for the day and will earn community service hours during their preparation time as well. This normally happens on the day of the lesson. Students are able to earn between **three and six hours a week** doing sessions at schools as described here.

Debriefing sessions

At the end of the semester after the sessions at the school has been completed, a debriefing session will be held for all student volunteer. This is mainly a feedback session on CLASI and how the programme has been presented. Students will earn **one to two hours** of community service if they attend, depending on how long the session takes to complete.

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS & REIMBURSEMENTS

CLASI is a recognised community service provider at the Faculty of Law's Community Service Committee. Students can earn between **three to six hours** per week for attending the teaching sessions with their partners, depending on the frequency of sessions and the attendance of the students. In addition, attending the training day will earn students **five to seven hours** of community service, and attending debriefing sessions at the end of the semester will earn you **one hour** each. Students are awarded hours per session that they attend and consistent attendance of the teaching sessions with your partner is required.

Students will have to fill out the community service timesheet provided by the Faculty of Law and have it signed off by the supervising student before submitting it to the Community Service Committee. Students will **NOT** have their hours earned for attending the training day or the debriefing sessions signed off and recognised by the student supervisor **UNLESS** they have attended the sessions arranged at the schools. This aims at preventing students from earning hours by solely attending the training day or debriefing sessions without contributing to the activities of CLASI.

Reasonable travel expenses to schools where the teaching sessions will happen will be reimbursed at UCT rates (available from UCT Treasury). Transport is only reimbursed for travel between the schools and UCT, and not from the students' homes. Other non-transport related reimbursements will need to be justified with a supervising student.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Should the Community Service Committee have any queries or questions regarding CLASI, please feel free to contact **Rozelle Wentzel** on any method stipulated below:

Contact person: Rozelle Wentzel

UCT e-mail address: WNTROZ001@myuct.ac.za

CLASI website: www.dgru.uct.ac.za/dgru/focus/Constitutionalism_new/clasi