Project Description:
This service-learning course is designed to help students gain a deeper understanding of course content, develop skills in community leadership, and advance their appreciation of social responsibility, global awareness, and diversity. In addition, this service learning course allows students to practically apply their academic learning through hands-on opportunities that promote the community interest of “The Big Read.”

Service-Learning Objectives and Student Outcomes:
- Enable community engagement and promote leadership – Students will collaborate and build relationships with community organizations
- Develop enhanced understanding of course content – Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively transfer course theories, concepts and knowledge to novel situations through information dissemination.
- Develop critical and creative thinking and reflection skills – Students will demonstrate ability to analyze and reflect upon their own and others’ beliefs and assumptions about an area of service.

Student Involvement Activities:
- Prepared and distributed flyers about speakers and events on campus and in the community
- Volunteered for First Friday event
- Presented at the Boy’s and Girl’s Club followed by group discussions
- Set up book discussions on campus
- Set up and maintained a Facebook page for “The Big Read”
- Worked with local schools and the public library reading to children
- Displayed children’s reflections and artwork of “Tar Beach” and “Their Eyes Were Watching God” at the public library
- Delivered instructional materials to elementary schools
- Advertised for Harlem Renaissance and Zora Neale Hurston events hosted on campus

Student Reflections:
“Service-Learning opens up an opportunity for students to do something great for the community while still working hard in school. As a part of the community, Service Learning gives us the opportunity to make a difference.” Taylor Noggle

“Programs such as the Big Read can, not only bring a community closer, but they can also help a person find the spot in society that he or she has relentlessly searched for.” Ashton Rowland

“I feel as though I have made an impact on the community, and the community has made an impact on me.” Samantha Ryti

“There is no agony like bearing an untold story inside of you.”
-Zora Neale Hurston