EXPLORING SOCIAL PROBLEMS — GROUP ACTIVITY/PRESENTATION

This group project is intended to provide an opportunity for students to explore a specific social problem on several levels. In this project you will work together to do the following:

1. Prepare an educational experience for the rest of your classmates regarding research your group has done relative to the selected social problem. This will include:
   - summarizing the history and background of the identified problem;
   - identifying who is impacted by this problem (demographics);
   - identifying and explaining policy that exists regarding how to approach this problem (i.e., at the local, regional, state, and/or national or international level);
   - identifying local programs (at least one per group member) that exist to provide services to people impacted by this program.

   Your group will be given 30-35 minutes for this in-class presentation/facilitation.

2. Identify, develop, and implement a project that the members in your group can do during this course and report on during your in-class presentation. This can range from volunteering for an hour or more a local agency, participating in and/or organizing a fund or in-kind donation drive, or writing letters and/or setting up a time to meet with your legislature representative regarding this particular problem. Be creative and agree on something all members of the group will do.

3. Create a PowerPoint for the in-class presentation that demonstrates 1 & 2 above and that include your references at the end. This is to also be turned in SacCT and a hard copy given to the instructor on the date of the presentation.

4. Complete an annotated bibliography of the sources used in your research (should be contributed by each member) in APA format and an agency synopsis of mission and history. This will be a separate document from the PowerPoint and needs to be given as a hard copy to the instructor on the date of the presentation.

Depending on total enrollment, groups will consist of four to five students. You will sign up for groups in the 2nd week of the semester. Once you are placed in a group, you will NOT be allowed to switch to another group. Topics will also be decided during the second or third week of class.

To complete this part of the class successfully, you need to work collaboratively with your peers on the selected social problems topic. Each group must have the following: A group leader; annotated bibliography compiler; agency synopsis compiler; artist – designer; and presenter. These roles must be assigned by the end of week 3. It is the responsibility of the group leader to inform the instructor of the group member’s and their role designation.

Note role designation responsibilities below. Each person in the group should take on one role.

- **Group leader** — is the project coordinator and should be the most organized member of your group, someone who understands how to create and implement deadlines. It is the responsibility of the group leader to keep everyone else in the group on track, to motivate individuals when necessary, and to make sure that all sections of the project are completed on time, thoroughly and thoughtfully. It is *not* the responsibility of the group leader to
perform any of the other functions below, however, if and when the designated person for a function below fails to perform or meet a deadline set by the group; it is the group leader’s responsibility to let the instructor know immediately. The group leader is also responsible for gathering and getting the final project elements to the instructor.

- **Artist/designer** — must have a creative mind and enjoy using it, someone who can take the information given by the group members and use it to form an engaging presentation. This person will have final *creative* say over the presentation. This person should be familiar with PowerPoint and various media used to enhance the presentation. This person will be responsible for creating and setting up the PowerPoint presentation the day of the presentation. He/She will be responsible for coordination all the necessary media (computer, overhead, CD player, etc) through media services.

- **Annotated Bibliography Compiler** -- The Annotated Bibliography Compiler is responsible for typing up and creating the annotated bibliography of all the sources other group members used for the presentation. S/he is not responsible to annotate the sources other than their own, only for typing up the annotated bibliography and making sure APA format is followed.

- **Agency Synopsis Compiler** – The Agency Synopsis Compiler is responsible for typing up the agency synopsis for the group. However, each group member is responsible for providing his or her agency synopsis to this compiler. Each synopsis should include the agency’s full name, its address and phone number, the agency’s mission, and a brief summary that highlights its services and populations served.

- **Presentation Speaker** -- This person will, on the day of the presentation, lead the class through the presentation and/or exercise created by the artist/designer on behalf of the group. S/he will lead a discussion about the particular social problem being presented.

- **All Group Members** — will work together to research the social problem and create an in-class exercise to accompany the group presentation. This exercise will be a way to illustrate your topic and can be as simple or elaborate as you want. Be creative!!

  In addition, each group member will be expected to evaluate all the other members of the group, these evaluations will be turned in with the final package after the presentation is completed.

**GROUP PROJECT ELEMENTS:**

On the day the group presents their project, the group leader will turn in the following, organized in this order. This can be bound in any manner you deem fit, with one exception. **DO NOT** use a clear plastic, side-bind folder.

1. A cover page with the title of your project, the people in your group and their designations.
2. A physical copy of the PowerPoint presentation. (15 points)
3. A physical copy of the Annotated Bibliography (10 points) and Agency Synopsis (10 points).
4. The group evaluation forms. (5 points)

The group project presentation itself is worth 60 points toward this overall project.
General Social Problem Topics (not limited to these though):

- Race and Ethnicity
- Work and Economy
- Gender
- The Media
- Criminal Justice System
- Cities and Suburbs
- Environment
- Social Action
- War and Terrorism
- Health and Medicine
- Sexual Orientation
- Age and Aging
- Education
- Family
- Alcohol and Drugs

Below are the steps for your group project.

1. With each social problem topic, your group must get together to discuss and define the **specific issue/problem**. Please focus on a specific issue within the broad topic so that you are not repeating the information presented by the instructor. It is suggested the group create a calendar to work from. Presentation dates have a way of sneaking up on you.

2. Research the history/evolution of the problem, and explore the micro and macro theoretical perspectives in relation to it. From the readings and/or outside sources describe what has occurred after the problem has been publicly acknowledged. Note any social movements or organizations that support or oppose these solutions. And lastly present individual actions/solutions of your own (in an ideal world) that contribute to social solutions.

3. Present in class an exercise that leads your peers through the whole process. This is where the PowerPoint presentation, audio aides, overheads, etc. come in.

4. Evaluate your group peers using the form from SacCT, turn in with your final submission to the instructor.