

Civic Engagement Project

For PHIL/PSJ 202, Spring 2012

Professor: Ramona Ilea
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Office Hours: Mon 11:30-12:30
Fri 10:30-11:30
and by appointment

Mentor: Sam Ryals
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Please email her whenever you are stuck
or have questions.
She is very friendly and helpful.

Deadlines

- Meet with Prof. Ramona Ilea by Friday, February 17
- Early portfolio check: Friday 20, 1:00 P.M.
- Meet with mentor Sam Ryals by Friday, March 2
- Mid-semester portfolio check: Tuesday, March 6, 1:00 P.M. at my office (202 Drake House); put your portfolio next to my door if I'm not there.
- Presentations: Friday, April 20
- Final deadline for the whole project (everything must be done by this date): Wednesday, April 25, by 11:30 A.M. at my office.

Project Description

This project is an investigation of the relationship between applied ethics and issues affecting the community we live in. You will work in groups or alone on a project of your choosing on campus or the surrounding community. This project must be chosen in consultation me, and must be appropriate for a 200-level class. Don't overestimate how much work you can get done, but try to pick something interesting and challenging. And remember that Sam and I are here to help you accomplish your goals.

Pick a project that:

- you are passionate about
- shows that you can take initiative (rather than just follow someone else)
- shows that you have (or are working on) organizational skills
- allows you to use campus and/or community resources to accomplish your goals
- allows you to **make a measurable/visible difference**

Bonus points will be awarded for doing some work outside our campus

Time

This project is worth 1 credit out of the 4 credits you get for PHIL/PSJ 202. Pacific University says that you are expected to spend an average of 3 hours a week per credit, so you'll be spending about 40 hours this semester working on this project (45 minus 5 hours in class).

When you work in groups, each of you will need to keep a separate portfolio and journal, and each of you will need to put in about 40 hours. Make sure you pick something you are passionate about, or else it will be very hard for you to dedicate the necessary amount of time to your project.

Project Objectives

- Develop civic engagement and leadership skills.
- Take a project from start to finish: defining, planning, and carrying out social action and activities.
- Attain experience and skills to act on social problems.
- Learn more about the topic you are addressing, and be in a better position to have and defend your own views on this topic.
- Practice your organizational skills and ability to delegate tasks.
- Think about the relevance of the ethical theories learned in class to your own life.
- Engage the public in an issue that is important to you.
- Make a difference.

Grading and Project Requirements at a Glance

- Meetings with professor & mentor: 5%
- Early portfolio checks: 5%
- Mid-semester portfolio check and reflection: 10%
- Reflection on two events; at least one needs to be another civic engagement project: 10%
- Portfolio (organization, detail, clarity): 10%
- Journal (ethical reflection): 20%
- Overall project (level of difficulty, work involved, organizational skills, seeking help when you are stuck, ability to plan ahead and be disciplined, the extent to which you engaged with and influenced the public, etc): 40%
- [1 page summary 10%](#)

Meeting with Professor and Mentor:

You must meet with Prof. Ramona **before Friday, February 17** for about 15 minutes.

- Update me on how your project is going and come with questions for me (about the idea you're working on, the implementation of it, the portfolio, etc.) so I can help you make progress on your project. Come prepared with questions.
- Bring your portfolio to the meeting too; remind me about it. I will grade (spot check) your portfolio at the meeting.
- You must also meet with Sam before March 2. You do not need to show her your portfolio, but you should come prepared with questions.

Mid-semester portfolio check and reflection

For your portfolio and journal, follow the directions below. Make sure you include a "What my project was about and what I accomplished" report. You will get a copy of the check sheet later.

Journal

This is a philosophy/ethics class, so it involves a fair amount of ethical reflection.

Your journal must include:

- 1) **One entry per week.** Your thought processes and ethical deliberation (i.e. what do you think about what you are doing?). Include questions, worries, ideas, etc. You don't need to write during Week 1 and you will be done during Week 15 and I'll allow you to skip one week, so you will need to have 12 entries.
- 2) Begin each weekly entry by briefly listing (in point form) what you have done that week.
- 3) **Each journal needs to be a reflection, not a description of what you have done that week** after the initial list at the top of the entry. You might want to comment on a number of things related to your project: an ethical dilemma, a comment made by someone else about your project that triggered some interesting thoughts, a newspaper or magazine article related to your project, our class discussion, others' reactions to your project, one or more of the readings for this class, or you can summarize and/or comment an academic article in ethics (feel free to ask me for references) that pertain to your project.

The ABC of journal entries: Your journal should contain a combination of

A) personal reflection about your project and

B) more abstract reflection where you think about issues related to CE in general that are triggered by your project (connecting your project to course discussions and readings would be an excellent way of doing this) and

C) structured questions. As a general rule of thumb, you should have about 1/3 of each of these in your journal (over the course of the semester, not every week).

Portfolio

The main purpose of the portfolio is to help you keep track of what is going on so you can complete the project effectively. Furthermore, documenting what you're doing is a great skill to develop; when you go out into the work force or to graduate school, you will be working on much bigger projects where keeping proper documentation will be essential.

Your portfolio should include any materials related to your project in the following order:

- 1) A timetable: what you have done (be specific about the task you worked on) and how long it took. Make sure you include the date too. Include the total number of hours when you hand in your portfolio mid-semester and at the end of the semester. Your timetable should have this form:

<i>Date</i>	<i>What I did</i>	<i>Time spent</i>
Sept. 8	Put up 23 posters in the UC, Clark, Walter, & Marsh	30 min.
Sept. 8	Filled out grant application	45 min.
Sept. 14	Joe and I attended Student Senate meeting to answer questions about our application	30 min
Total		1 hr. 45 min.

Fix numbering!! This should be 2)

- 4) "What my project is about and what I accomplished" report.
 - a. Include:
 - what your project is all about,

- what you think you accomplished (include sufficient detail, e.g. how many posters did you put up and where?)
 - what skills you gained,
 - what useful experience you think you might have gained,
 - what difficulties you overcame,
 - where your project fell short / what you think you've done differently,
 - and what further steps one could take if working on this project longer.
- a. Write this as if I don't know what your project is about. Show off with what you accomplished! Don't be shy. Telling me clearly what you accomplished and where your project fell short will help me assess your project.
 - b. Write this in point form. Make it super clear.
- 2) Materials you created, e.g. advertizing done: posters made, notices on Boxer Briefs, etc.
 - 3) Pictures that document the work you have done: if you do not have a camera, I think you can borrow one from the TIC office in the basement of Marsh (or borrow one from a friend).
 - 4) Research: Materials you found that are pertinent to your work (brochures, book lists, web sites, pamphlets, etc.). Do not print a lot of material out. E.g. list the web sites, books, etc. you looked at and include 1-3 sentences for each.
 - 5) Feedback: Letters or notes from other people about your work, including feedback from your classmates.
 - 6) Correspondence: copies of correspondence with people you are in contact with (administration, other students, me, etc).
 - 7) Notes: notes from meetings with other students, administration, me, etc. & anything else you might have
 - 8) Your journal
 - 9) Reflection on two other campus events
 - 10) A two page beautiful summary of your project. You may hand this in a day or two late if you wish. Make it clear and pretty ☺

Remember that your portfolio will be graded based on: detail, organization, completeness, and clarity.

Two Campus Events

Attend at least 2 campus events; at least one of these must be an event that one of your classmates has organized for his/her CE project.

Write a short (at least half a page single spaced) response on how the event connects to materials learned in class or to your civic engagement project. Do not just summarize the event. You may choose to talk about the content/topic of the event, or you can comment on how they are organized and structured (or anything else). Do not pick events that are required for a class, or that you're already getting bonus points for going to (for this class or another class). You may pick events organized by your classmates for their civic engagement projects.