PHIL/PSJ 202:
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

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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 on a big project on campus or the surrounding community. Do not overestimate how much work you can get done, but try to pick something interesting and challenging. And remember that your mentor 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 your) organizational skills
- allows interaction with the public
- allows you to use campus and/or community resources to accomplish your goals
- does not just involve student-to-student assistance (e.g., tutoring other students)
- allows you to **make a measurable/visible difference**

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

Project Objectives
- Take a project from start to finish: define, plan, and carry out social action and activities.
- Learn more about the topic you are addressing, and be in a better position to have and defend your own views on this topic.
- Engage the public in an issue that is important to you.
- Develop your ability to explain your project's goals and defend it against objections.
- Make connections between your project and the concepts and readings studied in class.

- Be able to explain what you learned, how your learned it, why it is important, and how you would continue this work if you were able to.
- Attain experience and skills to act on social problems.
- Develop civic engagement and leadership skills.
- Practice your organizational skills and ability to delegate tasks.
- Learn to work in a group more effectively.
- Make a difference.

Electronic Portfolio

Your group must set up an electronic portfolio using Google Sites. Your e-portfolio must be public except for the evidence section (which can be private if it contains confidential information). But you do not need to put your real name on it; that is optional. You may use a pseudonym; just let your professor know what it is.

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 are 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, organized in 8 sections in the following order:

1) An Attractive Home Page
   This must include a summary of your project. Keep updating this throughout the semester.

2) Research: see more instructions below

3) A timetable for each group member:
   Include the date, what you have done (be specific about the task you worked on) and how long it took. **Make sure you include lots of detail.** See the examples below. Your timetable should have this form:

Date	What I did (details included)	Time spent
Sept. 8	*Put up 43 copies of our purple poster in the UC, Clark, Walter, & Marsh*	*30 min.*
Sept. 8	*I filled the grant application for a Student Senate grant (see www....) by myself.*	*45 min.*
Sept. 10	*Met with Joe and Jane (Bob did not show up) to go over what we will say to the Student Senate. Took down notes on what Joe and I will say. Role played on how we'll answer questions they might ask us.*	*40 min*
Sept. 11	*Joe and I attended the Student Senate meeting to answer questions about our application.*	*30 min*
Total		*2 hr 25 min*

4) <u>Evidence:</u>
   This is the only part of the e-portfolio that can be private. Set different subsections as private if they contain confidential information. (The rest of the e-portfolio must be public.)

   a. 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. Label the pictures if needed, so I can understand what's going on. You should (also) sprinkle pictures throughout your web site, so it looks really nice.

   b. Materials you created, e.g. advertising done: posters made, notices on Boxer Briefs, etc. Make sure you indicate which group members did what. You can (also) sprinkle pictures throughout your web site, so it looks really nice.

   c. Feedback: Letters or notes from other people about your work, including feedback from your classmates. Feel free to get notes from people about how awesome your work/event/campaign was, and how it impacted them.

   d. Correspondence: copies of correspondence with people you are in contact with (administration, other students, me, etc.).

   e. Other Notes: notes from meetings with other students, administration, me, etc. & anything else you might have.

   <u>Note: To get a good grade, you will need to present detailed timetables and lots of evidence. Without proper evidence, you will get at most a D on this project. Make sure you present plenty of evidence. If you are not sure of something, ask me.</u>

5) <u>Accomplishments:</u> see more instructions below

6) <u>Future Directions:</u> see more instructions below

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

Grading and Project Requirements at a Glance
- Meetings with the professor and mentor: 6%
- First E-Portfolio Grade: Portfolio Set Up, Semester Plan, and Timeline: 10%
- Research: 10%
- Accomplishments: 5%
- Future Directions: 4%
- One Minute Video: 10%
- Portfolio (organization, detail, clarity): 15%
- Overall Quality of the Project: 40%

Meeting with the professor and mentor:
You must meet with the professor once and with the mentor twice. If you are working in a group, the whole group must be present at the meeting. At the meeting, present an update on how your project is going and pose questions (about the idea you're working on, the implementation of it, the portfolio, etc.). Come to the meeting prepared with questions, so the professor and mentor can help you make progress on your project.

First E-Portfolio Grade:
Portfolio Set Up, Semester Plan, and Timetable
Portfolios Set Up
- Set up your e-portfolio. Create separate pages for each of the sections and subsections required.
- Make the home page look pretty.
- Give a summary of your project on the home page. Describe what you plan to do and what you hope to accomplish.
- On the home page, briefly address these questions: How could your project make a difference? What ethical values will your project demonstrates?

Semester Plan:
- Your group should turn in a list of what it plans to do for the rest of the semester. This needs to do a fairly detailed list with all the major components of your project. Make sure you include deadlines for each important item on this list.

Timetable:
- Each group member must have his/her own separate timetable. This must be very detailed. See guidelines above.

Research:
- Research what other people interested have done about the issues you are tackling. Try to find other groups that have done similar projects. You will need to include citations and sources. (You can use any style of citation; I am not too worried about this as long as I can tell where you got the information from.)
- This means you need to do real research. Find some reliable web sites, brochures, book lists.
- Summarize what's useful about this material. You may use bullet points here.
- Do a bit of comparison to your group's project. How will this resource be useful to you when thinking about your project?

Portfolio Organization Grade:
I will be looking to see that the e-portfolio is well organized, detailed, full of information, the information is clear and labeled well (indicating which group member did what). It would also be nice if the e-portfolio looked good (but I don't want you to spend time beautifying it at the expense of getting stuff done).

Accomplishments:
Actions:
- Summarize what your accomplished using bullet points. List ALL your accomplishments. Write this as if the reader doesn't know what your project is about (most people looking at your project won't know what it is about after all). Show off with what you accomplished! Don't be shy. Give details.
- Each group member should contribute to this list. Since this is a group project, I will not know who did what, unless you tell me. Be sure I understand everything YOU have done. Show me that you worked hard on your project.
- Remember that many projects run into "dead ends", despite lots of hard work. Explain why or why not something you tried worked or didn't turn out as you had planned. That won't make you look bad. It will show that you tried to do something ambitious, which can be good!

Skills:
- What skills did this project help you gain?
- Look at the project objectives on the first page of this assignment sheet. Did you develop any of these skills? If so, which ones and how? If not, why not?
- You can write this as a group, but it might make more sense for each group member to submit a paragraph since each of you probably developed different skills. (I don't want to see "developed public speaking skills" listed if only 2 group members actually did public speaking).

Overall Quality of the Project:
To get a good grade, you will need to present detailed timetables and lots of evidence. See p. 2 and 3 (above) for more details about these.
Without proper evidence, you will get at most a D on this project. Make sure you present plenty of evidence. If you are not sure of something, ask me.
To assess the overall quality of the project, I will be looking at both the group accomplishments and the individual effort, keeping an eye for a number of things, including:
- the level of difficulty of the project,
- the work involved, your organizational skills,
- your willingness to seek help when you are stuck,
- your ability to work with others in your group,
- your ability to plan ahead and be disciplined,
- your willingness to take on tasks,
- your ability to do what you said you would do,
- the extent to which your group engaged with and influenced the public.

Future Directions:
If other students choose to continue working on your project next semester (or next year), what should they do? Lay out some next steps for them.
Also give them some tips of things to avoid doing, or try to do, etc.
Identify some useful resources for them.

One Minute Video:
Create a one-minute video that showcases your accomplishments. A total stranger watching your video should be able to tell what your project was about, so make sure you explain this clearly, preferably in the first part of your video.
Make your video short and enjoyable. Do not make it longer than one minute.
Briefly mention ethics (or some concepts related to ethics) if possible.
Add this to your homepage.

Further Resources:

How to create a Google site:
Go to https://sites.google.com
The whole process of setting up a site is very intuitive and easy to understand. But you could rely on this guide if you need to (click on "basics" at the top):
https://sites.google.com/site/amslerclassroom/the-basics

Examples of electronic portfolios:
Lots of examples of e-portfolios created by high school students:
https://sites.google.com/a/brvgs.k12.va.us/seniorresources/example-sites
More examples: https://sites.google.com/site/amslerclassroom/sampe-teacher-pages

Some very good electronic portfolios done for a different class I taught last semester:
https://sites.google.com/a/pacificu.edu/goodsforgood2013/home
https://sites.google.com/a/pacificu.edu/pacific-university-adopt-a-grandparent/resource-center
https://sites.google.com/a/pacificu.edu/cooking-at-college/future-plans

Other resources:
http://blog.helenbarrett.org/p/resources.html
http://sites.helenbarrett.net/portfolio/Home