

SOC 1500 01 W15

Professor Morton

Community Focused Learning (CFL) Assignment 20%

5% Plan/Proposal = Feb. 5th, Contribution 5%, Evidence & Critical Reflection 10% March 31st

What is “Community Focused Learning” and “Community Engagement”?

Community Focused Learning (CFL) is language I have developed to refer to a kind of Community Engaged Learning that is possible with a large undergraduate class like ours! Community engagement is “collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity” (The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, n.d.).

Your community focused learning project asks you to take the following STEPS:

STEP 1: Research (via the Internet, by talking to friends/family/colleagues, news/advertising etc.) a local, national or international organization, committee, body, etc. ***without contacting them*** whose *mandate* or focus of activities is related to the prevention of crime (in a specific or broad way) or which works to assist and/or inform/educate victims, offenders and/or the public about some aspect of crime or the criminal justice.

STEP 2: Develop & write your own individual plan/proposal (if working with other students on the CFL write and submit your OWN plan AND include a list of their names & the groups they are in) that outlines how **YOU** will actually make a contribution. Write a short (1-2 page) plan, that includes:

1. **Name of the organization/group** and their **mandate/mission** (properly referenced with SOC citations). Include a URL link if the group has one.
2. A rationale that explains how/why this organization/group relates to crime/ criminal justice and provide some evidence from the organization’s information and/or the course material and/or other resources.
3. How does the organization/group explain/theorize crime/criminal justice system? (e.g. individual or sociological level of analysis or a particular theory & what evidence is there?)
4. What/how/when do you intend to actually contribute to their work? Explain EXACTLY what you hope to do and whether it is related to one or more of the following:
 - political action/advocacy
 - participation in an event/activity
 - research
 - education/awareness
 - other (explain)
5. How will the contribution benefit the organization/group according to what you know about them? Use evidence from their materials/website etc. Submit this on or before **February 5th** to the dropbox (CFL Plan).

STEP 3: Get **written approval** (via a comment in dropbox) from your T.A. or Professor Morton to proceed with your plan. IF you **DO NOT GET WRITTEN APPROVAL** you cannot fulfill your plan or have your critical reflection graded.

STEP 4: Once you have received approval to proceed, work on your **CFL contribution and then your critical reflection** (Both are on **March 31st** or before). Submit evidence of your contribution by taking pictures or a copy of your contribution and your reflection to dropbox or hand it in to the TA with your reflection). Write a 2-3 double spaced critical reflection that addresses the following:

1. What you actually did and how your effort contributed to the organization's mandate/mission/work using information from the organization to make your case.
2. How did this project impact **YOU** and your learning?
 - 2.1. What specific connections can you make between your CFL project and the course? e.g. how did it fit with course themes, course topics, theories, readings etc?
 - 2.2. What Learning Outcomes (knowledge, skills, values) do you think this assignment advanced or helped you practice? You need to explain how/why you think these LOs were developed via this project.
 - Theoretical
 - Research and methodological
 - Critical and creative thinking & understanding
 - Knowledge & communication
 - Social justice, social change, civic engagement and ethical
3. What did you like/not like about this assignment? What changes would you suggest?

REMEMBER THE DOs & DON'Ts:

1. **No fundraising! No contacting the organization/group!**
2. You cannot use something you are already doing/or have done in the past for this assignment.
3. If you work with others (which we encourage), make sure the written portions of the assignment are your own work. You must hand in individual plans/critical reflections and let the TAs know who else you are working with.
4. If you cannot think of what to do let us know ... we can help! We will be adding more opportunities under "CFL Groups" in Courselink as they arise.
5. Get creative!!