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EVST 570.01: Environmental Clinic

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EVST 570: Environmental Clinic

Fall 2000; Mon & Wed. 9:40-11:00

Facilitators

Len Broberg
103 Rankin Hall; Ph. 243-5209
Office Hours: M 11-12:30 & W 1:15-2:30

Neva Hassanein
102 Rankin Hall; Ph. 243-6271
Office Hours: M 1:00 -2:30 & W 3:00-4:30

Course Description/Purpose

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to a variety of methods of citizen participation in environmental policymaking and environmental organizing/consulting through a hands-on, applied process. Students will be required to complete one or more forms of citizen participation by the end of the semester. The course is a clinical experience which will include (1) presentations and discussion of various issues relevant to citizen participation, (2) guest speakers, and (3) opportunities for students to share the insights gained through their participation in projects and to work on those projects in a cooperative atmosphere.

Course Text

EVST 570 Faculty Pac- available at the bookstore.

Tentative Schedule

- 9/6 Organizational meeting: Project topics, research methodology & administrative issues
- 9/11 The National Environmental Policy Act
- 9/13 The National Environmental Policy Act - Commenting
- 9/18 Citizen alternatives - **Project Description Submitted**
- 9/20 Work session
- 9/25 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests
- 9/27 Strategic planning for issue campaigns- **Project Approval Deadline**
- 10/2 Consensus/negotiation
- 10/4 Negotiation speaker (Bryony Schwan- WVE)
- 10/9 Work session -- **Progress Report/Action Plan 1 due**

- 10/11 Running good meetings & group facilitation
- 10/16 Working with experts
- 10/18 Work session - **Progress Report/Action Plan 2 due**
- 10/23 Rule making petitions & administrative appeals
- 10/25 Rule making petition speaker (Bethanie Walder)
- 10/30 Lobbying speaker or work session
- 11/1 Lobbying
- 11/6 Corporate democracy- **Progress Report/Action Plan 3 due**
- 11/8 Work session
- 11/13 Working with lawyers & SLAPP suits
- 11/15 Work session
- 11/20 Ballot initiatives & electing pro-environment candidates - **Progress Report/Action Plan 4 due**
- 11/22 No class- Thanksgiving Holiday
- 11/27 Media: Message development and polling
- 11/29 Media: Getting your message out
- 12/4 Effective public speaking
- 12/6 TBA
- 12/11 Project summaries given in class
- 12/13 Project summaries cont'd - **Citizen Participation Product/Analysis due**

Citizen Participation Projects

The citizen participation component of the course can be completed through a citizen participation project(s). Each student is required to complete one or more citizen participation projects during the course of the term. These projects may be with an existing advocacy group or developed by the student themselves. The projects may be done in groups of up to 3 students or done individually.

Based on the project descriptions, on the interests of the student, and the skills of the facilitators, each student will tend to work with one of facilitators over the course of the term. All projects will be reviewed by the facilitators, and approved by September 27.

The Project may result in written products such as NEPA comments, citizen alternatives, administrative appeals or petitions, or they may entail organizing, lobbying and/or public speaking. Students completing a written product will submit the written product for grading. Students whose work does not entail a substantial written product will produce an analytical report summarizing the techniques used and analyzing their effectiveness.

Project Description

This typewritten report will outline what you plan to do as your project in the class. Specifically identify the type(s) of citizen participation you plan to do, when they are anticipated to occur, a proposed schedule for completion of steps (you will undoubtedly revise this) and what written product you will produce for grading during the term.

Progress Report/Action Plan

These reports will tell us what you have done on your project since the last report and what you plan to do in the next 2 weeks. The progress report is a good place for you to reflect on your experiences (successes and frustrations/disappointments), and to ask the facilitators questions so that we can give you feedback. The more information you provide here, the better able we will be to direct you to additional resources and contacts that will help your project along.

Project Summary

This oral report will be made to the class and summarize the techniques used, work done and success of the project. The total summary will not be more than 20 minutes for group projects and each group member shall present a section of the talk. For individual projects no more than 10 minutes may be spent on the presentation.

Grading

The grade in the class will be based on two major components:

- (1) Class participation- 25%
- (2) Citizen Participation- 75%

Citizen participation projects will be graded based on the facilitators' observations of your participation or activity, the submission of progress reports/action plans, the completion of a

written product or analytical report at the conclusion of the term, and the presentation of a brief project summary at the end of the term.

Office Hours

The facilitators have set office hours when you are invited to drop-in for consultation. Len and Neva are also available at some other times by appointment. You may make appointments in class, by telephone, or by stopping by during regular office hours. Len will not be available at other times.

Environmental Clinic
EVST 570 -- Fall 2000

Table of Contents

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5. Bolling, David M. 1994. Getting it done. pp. 105-115 in How to Save A River: A Handbook for Citizen Action. Island Press, Washington, DC.
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