Psychology 417A: Psychology and Developing Societies

Summer/Fall 2018, Section 921
Class Meetings, May: Tuesdays/Thursdays, 12:00-4:00PM
Room D301, Buchanan Building

**Instructor:**
Dr. Sunaina Assanand (“Sue-nay-nah Ass-an-and”)
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Office Hours, April/May: Immediately after class, as needed
Office Hours, September/October: TBA (see course website)

**Teaching Assistant:**
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Office Hours, April/May: By appointment
Office Hours, September/October: TBA (see course website)

**Course Description:** This course will introduce students to the application of psychology to international development. Students will explore the contributions that psychologists may make to global development and examine topics that foster cultural sensitivity and respectful collaboration across diverse contexts. Students will relate their classroom learning to the “real-world” through an international service learning (ISL) placement in Kenya or Uganda. Students’ placements will be organized and facilitated by ISL staff from the Office of Regional and International Community Engagement in the Faculty of Arts.

**Course Objectives:** Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- recognize the role of psychological inquiry in international development.
- identify limitations in the applicability of Western psychological theory to individuals in non-Western cultures.
- appreciate indigenous psychologies.
- identify the ethical responsibilities of psychologists who work in developing societies.
- evaluate psychological theory and research related to development initiatives.
- apply psychological theory and research to development initiatives.
- participate in respectful collaboration with individuals from diverse cultures.
- synthesize and present theory, research results, and field work to a broad audience.
- engage in critical self-reflection.
- demonstrate civic responsibility and global awareness.
Prerequisites: The prerequisites for this course are: (a) 60 credits of undergraduate course work and (b) 6 credits of 300-level psychology courses.

Course Structure: The course will be structured in four parts:

Pre-Placement Class Meetings
Students will attend eight class meetings prior to their ISL placement. Each class meeting will explore a topic related to the course objectives. Students will be assigned readings that must be completed prior to each class meeting. During class time, the readings will be discussed and students will engage in activities to expand on the readings.

ISL Placement
Students’ ISL placement will be approximately three months in duration. Upon arrival in the host country, students will receive an in-country orientation facilitated by ISL representatives. Mid-way through the placement, students will participate in an "in-session" workshop with ISL staff in which they will reflect on their learning in the field.

Students will complete their placement with a partner organization in the host country. Partner organizations include Carolina for Kibera, Kakenya's Dream, Little Rock Academy, Tekera Resource Centre and the Kitengesa Community Library, The AIDS Support Organization (TASO), and Sunflower.

Post-Placement Class Meeting
Following return to Vancouver, students will participate in a re-entry workshop with ISL staff. In addition, students will attend one class meeting. The class meeting will serve as a debriefing or “mirroring session.” During the class meeting, each student will identify and discuss one course topic in relation to their placement, attempting to draw explicit connections between their classroom learning and placement experiences.

Public Engagement Event
The course will conclude with a public engagement event in which students will present talks on their classroom learning and placement experiences. In order to disseminate the knowledge that students acquire, the event will be open to the public. In addition, local representatives of organizations involved in international development and Arts Research Abroad (ARA) representatives may be invited to the event.

Course Website: The website for this course is http://blogs.ubc.ca/sassanand/. In order to access the course website, students will require the following password: _________________. Slides presented during class will be posted on the course website after each class period. Slides will be numbered, enabling students to record notes during class by slide number.

Grades will be posted on the course website by student number. I will notify the class via e-mail when I have posted grades. Students should ensure that their current e-mail
address is registered with UBC to receive class announcements via e-mail.

**Readings**: The readings are listed in the Schedule of Course Topics (see pp. 11-13). The readings are available as a course package at the UBC Bookstore.

**Learning Assessments**: Academic credit will not be given for students’ service abroad. Rather, academic credit will be given for the learning that students derive and demonstrate through their participation and assignments. The course is designated as a “writing-intensive” course. Students’ course grade will be based on six learning assessments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percent of Course Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISL Pre-Departure Training Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation (10 discussion questions, 1% each)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 1: Survey of Sustainable Development Goals for Partner Organization and Host Country</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 2: Articulated Learning Journal Entries (5 journal entries, 5% each)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 3: Program Review and Assessment</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Engagement Event Presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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**ISL Pre-Departure Training Participation**
In order to ensure positive learning outcomes, the Office of Regional and International Community Engagement has designed a series of pre-departure training sessions. These sessions address aspects of international development that are not considered in Psychology 417A; the curriculum for Psychology 417A is designed to complement these sessions. Students will receive 5% for full participation in the sessions and completion of all assignments associated with the training. Assignments include a situation analysis and personal learning and development plan. Failure to attend sessions and complete assignments will result in a deduction of percentage points proportional to the number of sessions missed and/or the number of assignments that are not completed.

**Class Participation**
Class meetings will incorporate activities and substantial discussion. Active, informed participation is required of all students.

At the start of the course, each student will be assigned to a team that will summarize the readings related to one course topic. The team may summarize the readings in whole or in part through lecture. However, interactive techniques may also be used to summarize the readings (e.g., “acting out” one or more studies, creating a demonstration or game, showing a brief [i.e., less than 5 minutes] video clip that highlights one or more key concepts). The team’s summary of the readings should be no more than 10-15 minutes in duration and should be novel, avoiding redundancy with interactive techniques used by other students in their summaries. If audio-visual resources are needed for the summary, please let me know three weekdays in advance of the presentation. All team members must contribute equally and meaningfully to the team’s efforts to summarize the readings.
In addition, students must generate two discussion questions for each of the class meetings scheduled on May 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, and 24, with the exception of the class meeting for which their team will summarize the readings. The purpose of the discussion questions is to engage students in dialogue on aspects of the readings that have piqued their interest and curiosity. The discussion questions should reflect thoughtful observation related to the readings for the class. For example, students may relate the readings to other topics, consider implications of the findings, and/or challenge conclusions drawn by the authors. The discussion questions should avoid requests for clarification; these may be submitted in addition to the discussion questions. Students should be prepared to facilitate discussion of the questions that they submit during class. Students must e-mail the discussion questions to me by 9:00AM on the date on which the readings will be considered in class. Discussion questions submitted after 9:00AM will receive a grade of “0.” Further information regarding the discussion questions will be provided in class.

In order to encourage and facilitate participation during class, students are asked to share their opinions and respond to others’ opinions in a respectful and nonjudgmental manner. All members of the class should feel that they have the opportunity to participate. Accordingly, please refrain from dominating discussion. Our classroom should be regarded as a “safe space” in which all students can share their ideas and unique perspectives. Courteous and considerate participation will cultivate a positive and informative classroom environment.

Assignment 1: Survey of Sustainable Development Goals for Partner Organization and Host Country
The purpose of Assignment 1 is to provide students with the foundational knowledge that is needed to understand and appreciate the concerns and initiatives of their partner organization, within the context of their host country. The assignment will focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For the assignment, students will: (a) review the SDGs that are of primary concern to their partner organization and (b) discuss research regarding the host country’s progress in achieving these SDGs. The bulk of the assignment should focus on the latter of these two requirements (i.e., the host country’s progress in achieving these SDGs). Students may draw from research on the Millennium Development Goals, which were the focus of development work for 15 years, to inform their survey. Appropriate questions to ask in conducting the survey include, but are not limited to, the following:

What are the SDGs? In general, what is the work of my partner organization? Which of the SDGs are addressed by the work of my partner organization? Has my host country made progress towards these SDGs? What evidence supports this conclusion? What initiatives has my host country implemented to achieve these SDGs? What factors, if any, have impeded my host country’s progress? Does research suggest that my host country will make progress related to these SDGs in the years ahead or are conditions expected to worsen in the future?

The assignment should be 6-8 pages in length (excluding a title page and the reference section), typed and double-spaced, in a 12-point Times New Roman font, and contain 1-inch margins. Any pages beyond 8 will not be read. Assignments under 6 pages will receive a 10% deduction for each page or portion of a page under the minimum page
requirement (after correcting for errors in spacing, font, and margins, if necessary). Students must submit the assignment on the date negotiated in class and marked in the Schedule of Course Topics (see p. 13). Assignments that are submitted late will receive a late penalty, as described below (see p. 9). Further information regarding the assignment will be provided in class.

Assignment 2: Articulated Learning Journal Entries
The purpose of Assignment 2 is to foster personal growth, academic development, and civic engagement among students through reflection. For the assignment, students will write five journal entries over the course of their placement. Each journal entry will identify a “critical moment” that the student experienced while in the field. A critical moment may be characterized by emotion (e.g., surprise, disappointment); perplexity, hesitation, discomfort, or doubt; or the experience of insight. The student will analyze the critical moment to identify its personal, academic, and civic significance. Appropriate questions to ask to explore the personal, academic, and civic significance of the critical moment include, but are not limited to, the following:

Personal:  What did the experience reveal about my attitudes, assumptions, beliefs, or values? What stereotypes do I hold and how did I develop them? How did my experience of relative privilege influence my response to the individuals involved or events that occurred? How did the experience change my attitudes, assumptions, beliefs, or values? What strengths or weaknesses did I display during the experience? How can I develop these strengths or overcome these weaknesses? What abilities or skills did I develop as a result of the experience?

Academic: Did the experience illustrate a course concept? Did the experience help me understand a course concept? Did a course concept help me understand or respond to the experience? Was a course concept reinforced or challenged by the experience? Does the experience suggest that a course concept needs to be revised or discarded? If the course concept needs to be revised, what revisions are necessary? What more do I need to learn to understand the experience? How might I answer new questions that resulted from the experience?

Civic: How did the experience help me understand my partner organization’s vision, mission, or goal? What did the experience reveal about the relationship between my partner organization and those that it serves? Could additional or alternative approaches be adopted to produce systemic and long-term change? What does it mean to be an “agent of change?” What did I learn about the challenges of community and/or global development? How can these challenges be overcome? How can my actions contribute to social (in)equality and/or (in)equity? What community-based initiatives can I serve in the future? How will I apply my learning to contribute to social change?

After deliberating these and related questions, the student will identify the domain (i.e., personal, academic, or civic) that was most significantly impacted by the critical moment and write an “articulated learning” (AL) journal entry (Ash & Clayton, 2004, 2009) for submission. The journal entry should answer four questions: (a) What did I learn? (b) How did I learn it? (c) Why does it matter? and (d) What will I do in light of my learning? Students may find it helpful to answer these questions using the following prompts in
consecutive paragraphs: (a) I learned that …., (b) I learned this when …., (c) This learning matters because …., and (d) In light of this learning …. In generating responses to (d) (i.e., What will I do in light of my learning?), students should attempt to construct SMART goals—that is, goals that are specific, measurable, attainable, results-focused, and time-bound (see http://www.projectsmart.co.uk/smart-goals.php).

Of the five journal entries that students submit, at least one must be an academic journal entry and at least one must be a civic journal entry. Any personal journal entries in excess of three will receive a grade of “0.” For each journal entry, clearly indicate the domain (i.e., personal, academic, or civic) that is the focus of the journal entry in a title. Each journal entry should be 1-3 pages in length (excluding a title page and the reference section), typed and single-spaced, in a 12-point Times New Roman font, and contain 1-inch margins. Any pages beyond 3 will not be read. Students must submit the journal entries on the dates indicated in the Schedule of Course Topics (see p. 13). Journal entries that are submitted late will receive a late penalty, as described below (see p. 9). Further information regarding the process of guided reflection and sample journal entries will be provided in class.

Assignment 3: Program Review and Assessment
The purpose of Assignment 3 is to develop students’ ability to apply psychological theory and research to community-based initiatives undertaken by development organizations. For the assignment, students will: (a) review a specific program that their partner organization implemented and (b) assess the program, adopting a psychological lens. The bulk of the assignment should focus on the latter of these two requirements (i.e., program assessment). Appropriate questions to ask in reviewing and assessing the program include, but are not limited to, the following:

Program review: What were the objectives of the program? Who did the program serve? How was the program implemented? What were the key elements of the program?

Program assessment: What psychological variables were addressed by the program (e.g., in its design, training, and/or delivery)? Did the program address any indigenous psychological variables? Were there any psychological variables that were not addressed by the program that could contribute to its success? How could these psychological variables be incorporated into the program in the future? What measures and research design could be used to examine the psychological impact and/or efficacy of the program?

The assignment should be 7-10 pages in length (excluding a title page and the reference section), typed and double-spaced, in a 12-point Times New Roman font, and contain 1-inch margins. Any pages beyond 10 will not be read. Assignments under 7 pages will receive a 10% deduction for each page or portion of a page under the minimum page requirement (after correcting for errors in spacing, font, and margins, if necessary). Students must submit the assignment on the date indicated in the Schedule of Course Topics (see p. 13). Assignments that are submitted late will receive a late penalty, as described below (see p. 9). Further information regarding the assignment will be provided in class.
Public Engagement Event Presentation

The presentation has four purposes: (a) to foster academic development among students through shared reflection, (b) to cultivate collaborative learning among students from diverse disciplines (e.g., psychology, economics, sociology) through interdisciplinary dialogue, (c) to develop students’ oral presentation skills, and (d) to disseminate students’ research findings to an audience that is not familiar with psychological science. For the presentation, students will work with their placement partner(s) to amalgamate the content of their submissions for Assignment 3. More specifically, students will compare, contrast, and ultimately synthesize their program reviews and program assessments for Assignment 3, producing a concise presentation that illustrates their joint application of psychological theory and research to one or more community-based initiatives undertaken by their partner organization. In addition to the questions listed above for the program review and program assessment, appropriate questions to ask in developing the content of the presentation include, but are not limited to, the following:

Does the presentation include the ideas of all presenters, reflecting a collaborative effort? Does each presenter have equal opportunity to contribute to the presentation (i.e., equal opportunity to “shine”)? Are the individual presentations within the team presentation logically ordered, with clear connections between each individual’s ideas? Is the content of the presentation easily understood by audience members (e.g., an outline of the organization of the presentation is provided, psychological terms are defined)? Are visual aids appropriate and engaging for the audience?

The presentation should be 20-25 minutes in duration and include slides (e.g., PowerPoint slides). The presentation should be designed for a broad audience, including individuals unfamiliar with psychological theory and research. Students may receive coaching and feedback on their presentation prior to the public engagement event. Students will be given the opportunity to evaluate the contributions of their placement partner(s) to the presentation. Peer evaluation will comprise 10% of students’ grade on the presentation; students who do not submit their peer evaluation(s) will receive a 10% deduction in their presentation grade. Students must deliver the presentation on the date indicated in the Schedule of Course Topics (see p. 13). Presentations that are not delivered on this date will receive a grade of “0.” Further information regarding the presentation will be provided in class.

Sources of Information

Sources of information that are used for the assignments and presentation may be varied, including scholarly articles published in psychological journals, scholarly articles published in non-psychological journals (e.g., anthropological journals, medical journals, sociological journals), books, government reports, and reports produced by non-governmental organizations. Students should use recently published works whenever possible.

Sources of information should be cited according to the guidelines provided by the American Psychological Association (i.e., APA). Students who are not familiar with these guidelines should refer to the APA Publication Manual or inquire at the UBC Library for further information. The library has a handout summarizing APA citation procedures available at http://wiki.ubc.ca/images/6/6f/Apastyle.pdf. A tutorial on APA style is available at http://www.apastyle.org/learn/tutorials/basics-tutorial.aspx. In addition,
Purdue University has developed a useful resource on APA style, available at https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/. Class slides should be cited as follows:

**In-text citation:** (Assanand, date).

**Example:** As was noted in class (Assanand, 2018), the consequentialist position maintains that ….

**Reference section:** Assanand, S. (date). Class meeting number [PowerPoint slides].
Retrieved from http://URL

Slides from different classes should be distinguished with lower case letters in both the in-text citation and reference section:

**Example:** As was noted in class (Assanand, 2018a), the consequentialist position maintains that …. Consistent with this position, many psychologists argue that … (Assanand, 2018b).

Note that Wikipedia is not an appropriate source of information to cite in your work.

**Grading**
The discussion questions, assignments, and presentation will be graded for content—that is, the thoughtfulness and, if applicable, creativity with which the student completed the content-related requirements discussed above. “Critical thinking standards” specific to the grading of the content of Assignment 2 will be presented in class. The assignments and presentation will also be graded for the use of appropriate citation procedures, as described above.

In addition to content and citations, the assignments will be graded for writing style, mechanics, and formatting—that is, how well the assignments were written. For example, did your assignment (in particular, Assignments 1 and 3) contain a clear statement of its purpose or objectives (i.e., thesis statement)? Was your writing clear, concise, and easily understood, with appropriate word choice and university-level academic tone? Was your assignment well organized, characterized by effective transitions between ideas and a logical flow? Were sources of information paraphrased appropriately and integrated effectively into your writing (e.g., listing of abstracts was avoided, if applicable)? Were there errors in punctuation, grammar, or spelling? Did your assignment conform to the formatting requirements?

In addition to content and citations, the presentation will be graded for delivery—that is, how effectively the student shared ideas with audience members. For example, did you speak clearly and loudly, at an appropriate pace and with a lively tone? Did you maintain eye contact and use appropriate and expressive body language (e.g., gestures) to engage the audience? Did you refer to visual aids appropriately during the presentation? Did you competently handle any technologies that you used during the presentation? Did you use the allotted time for your presentation? Did you respond effectively to audience reactions and questions?
**Due Dates and Late Penalty**

Due dates will not be rescheduled for students to accommodate academic workload, oversleeping, employment-related commitments, or travel. **Please do not request an alternative due date for these reasons.** Submission may be rescheduled for students who are ill, in which case a doctor's note is required. The doctor’s note must detail the student's illness and provide contact information for the physician to allow for verification of the note. Submission may also be rescheduled for students who have a religious obligation that conflicts with a due date. Students who are unable to meet a due date as a result of illness must contact me before the due date or within 24 hours after the due date. The work of students who do not contact me within 24 hours after the due date will be considered late and will receive a late penalty, as described below. Students who are unable to meet a due date as a result of a religious obligation must notify me at least 2 weeks in advance of the due date in order to be accommodated (see http://www.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policy65.pdf).

Students who submit their work late will be penalized 10% per 24-hour period after the time for submission has ended on the due date. For example, students who submit Assignment 3 between 4:01PM on October 5 and 4:00PM on October 6 will receive a 10% deduction to their grade on the assignment.

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory and will be taken regularly. Students may be excused from class if ill, in which case a doctor’s note is required (see above). Students will not be excused from class for a reason other than documented illness. Students who are absent from class for a reason other than documented illness will lose 5% from their course grade for each class that is missed. Given the compressed period over which the class meetings are held, each class that is missed is equivalent to absence from four 50-minute classes in winter session, resulting in a significant loss in learning. Moreover, given the student-centered, participatory nature of the class activities, the absence of one student adversely impacts all students in the class.

Students are expected to arrive to class meetings on time and remain until class meetings have ended.

**Requests for Adjustment of a Grade and Academic Concession:** Requests for adjustment of a grade must be made within 3 weeks of the posting of that grade using a Regrade Request Form. In cases of a dispute that cannot be satisfactorily resolved with the teaching assistant, please contact me.

Students who encounter medical, emotional, or personal problems that they believe may affect their academic performance should notify me. Under these circumstances, students may be able to obtain academic concession from the dean of their faculty. Students should discuss any extenuating circumstances with me prior to due dates. In order to ensure equity among the students in the class, accommodations will not be made after work has been submitted. Furthermore, the relative weight of the learning assessments will not be changed for any given student. Accordingly, students should not request that
the relative weight of the learning assessments be changed or points be added to their grade to increase their standing in the course. E-mail requests of this type will not be answered. For further information on academic concession, consult Campus-Wide Policies and Regulations in the UBC Calendar (see http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm).

**Academic Misconduct:** In an effort to minimize academic misconduct, the Psychology Department requires that assignments be submitted to TurnItIn. TurnItIn is a service that is designed to detect and deter plagiarism. Plagiarism occurs when individuals submit or present the work of others as their own. TurnItIn will compare students’ work to over 5 billion pages of content on the Internet or in TurnItIn’s databases and generate customized “originality reports” to identify plagiarized content. These reports will be reviewed for evidence of plagiarism. Assignments 1 and 3 must be scanned by TurnItIn prior to submission; assignments that are not scanned by TurnItIn will receive a grade of “0.” The electronic copy submitted to TurnItIn will be compared to the hard copy of the assignment that is submitted for grading; accordingly, students should not change the content or format of the electronic copy that they submit to TurnItIn. The class ID and password needed for use of TurnItIn will be provided in class.

According to University policy, students may not submit the same work, or largely the same work, in two or more courses; this constitutes academic misconduct.

In all cases of suspected academic misconduct, the parties involved will be pursued to the fullest extent dictated by the guidelines of the University. Evidence of academic misconduct may result in a “0” credit for the work in question. According to the University Act (section 61), the President of UBC has the right to impose harsher penalties including, but not limited to, a failing grade for the course, suspension from the University, cancellation of scholarships, and/or a notation added to the student’s transcript. For further information on student conduct and discipline, consult Campus-Wide Policies and Regulations in the UBC Calendar (see http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm) and the University Counsel’s policy on student discipline (see http://universitycounsel.ubc.ca/discipline/).

**Academic Accommodation:** The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with Access and Diversity (see https://students.ubc.ca/about-student-services/access-diversity). Students should notify me in advance, preferably within the first week of classes, if they require accommodation on these grounds.
**Schedule of Course Topics:** The schedule below may be changed to accommodate class interest and discussion. Any changes will be announced in class.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic, Readings, Requirements</th>
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| May 1  | **Introduction to Psychology 417A.** The Application of Psychology to International Development: Obstacles and Opportunities.  
Readings:  
| May 3  | **The Application of Psychology to International Development: Obstacles and Opportunities (continued).** Indigenous Psychologies: Theoretical and Practical Considerations.  
Readings:  
| May 8  | **Research Methods: Community-Based/Participatory Action Research.**  
Readings:  
| May 10 | **Case Study: HIV/AIDS Transmission and Prevention.**  
Readings:  
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<th>Date</th>
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**May 24**

Placement Preparation: Socioeconomic Privilege and Service Learning as a Pedagogical Tool.

**Readings:**

**June 2**
*(Date negotiated in class.)*

**Due:** Assignment 1. Submit an electronic copy to the teaching assistant via e-mail by 11:59PM.

**June 30**

**Due:** Assignment 2, AL Journal Entry 1. Submit an electronic copy to the teaching assistant via e-mail by 11:59PM. (Note that students may submit a draft of AL Journal Entry 1 for feedback on or before June 23.)

**July 31**

**Due:** Assignment 2, AL Journal Entries 2 and 3. Submit electronic copies to the teaching assistant via e-mail by 11:59PM.

**August 31**

**Due:** Assignment 2, AL Journal Entries 4 and 5. Submit electronic copies to the teaching assistant via e-mail by 11:59PM.

**September 20**

Mirroring Session: Examination of Course Topics in Relation to Placement Experiences.
To be held at 5:00-8:00PM. Location TBA.

**October 5**

**Due:** Assignment 3. Submit a hard copy between 1:00-4:00PM in room A240 of the Buchanan Building.

**October X**

Public Engagement Event Presentation Coaching/Feedback Session. Optional. Date, time, and location TBA.

**October 20**

**Due:** Public Engagement Event Presentation. Time and location TBA.