Second Semester Duffy Partnerships Project

The intent of the second-semester project is to build upon the ongoing work on site and the literature review. Projects should be individually tailored to the student’s academic and experiential work, while in some way addressing the overarching question of the course, “What makes a good society and how can it be created?”

Option one: Project Proposal

You have already begun to formulate a question in the first semester of the Duffy Seminar, and researched approaches via the literature review. The project proposal is a next step by which you will further refine your articulation of the social problem and propose an approach for research. A formal project proposal follows clear, logical steps, moving from the statement of the problem, through hypotheses, articulation and evaluation of theoretical frameworks, further review of the literature, and descriptions of data needed and treatment of the data. Decisions must be made as to whether qualitative or quantitative research, and what sort, best addresses the problem as it is framed. This step does not involve actually gathering the data. The project proposal should be about 5 pages in length.

The text, Practical Research: Planning and Design by Paul D. Leedy and Jeanne Ellis Ormrod offers a step-by-step guide to this process and is an invaluable guide. It is on reserve at the library.

Option two: Design an Educational Process

Many of the Duffy sites use some form of education as a means to foster “the good society.” In choosing this option, the student will design and implement a class, curriculum or process designed to educate participants. The design will need to examine pedagogical assumptions, for instance: abilities, experience and limitations of students; cultural and material resources and constraints; “prerequisites” for learners, and assessment of efficacy. The design should be informed by reviewing other educational efforts addressing the same issue (the literature review) and, if possible, the same type of learner. Assessment by learners, as well as faculty and supervisor partners, will be a part of this project.

Option three: Independent Project

The proposal for an independent project must be approved by Carol Wickersham, and the faculty and supervisor partners. Each proposal must have a clear rationale and goal, and steps to reach that goal, as well as a plan for assessment. It must incorporate insights from the literature review and build on work from the first semester.