

PARTICIPATION - 10%

Students are required to attend each class, with the readings completed in advance, and to actively participate in the group discussions.

As you might expect from a 4th-year seminar, discussion is a fundamental learning component in this course. Successful group-work can be understood to involve face-to-face interaction and advocacy, where individuals learn to collectively explore new ideas and take positions based on their interactions with others.

Our individual and group challenge is to explore what it might mean to be accountable to, and for, interests that diverge from our own. This sort of coming together around matters-of-concern rather than matters-of-fact allows different perspectives to converge without the necessity of consensus, and some discussions may conclude with more questions than answers.

The ability to work collaboratively with people who have different values—or even different objectives—not only helps us develop creative problem-solving techniques but also prepares us to take action and succeed within a variety of complex and diverse situations.

Students will be randomly assigned to small (no more than 4 people) discussion groups in the second class, Jan 10th.

Each week your group will be provided with questions for discussion, and a handout (see reverse) to complete and submit at the end of class. Throughout the term, each person will rotate through different roles including *discussion moderator* (keeps discussion on track & ensures everyone is heard), *recorder* (takes notes & summarises conclusions), *presenter* (presents group ideas to entire class), and *reflector* (fills in handout & comments on group dynamics).

In this way, everyone has the opportunity to work through questions and problems individually and as a small group, followed by the opportunity to learn by engaging the larger group. By switching roles, you'll learn to identify your own strengths and areas that may need improvement, as well as become familiar with the different ways other people think and learn—both of which are highly valued and transferable skills that will continue to benefit you after this class is over.

Every few weeks we'll also take time as a class to assess what is working and what isn't working, and you'll be encouraged to share your thoughts and experiences from other classes and contexts too. For more details on how you can be an effective discussion participant, please see:

<http://socanth4036.wordpress.com/class-assignments/#participation>