UNIV 101  
City-University Life

This course introduces students to the kinds of communities that people construct for themselves (e.g., social, political, artistic, etc.) and the values and dynamics that define such communities (e.g., cooperation, civility, tolerance, responsibility, etc.). The notion of what it means to be a responsible member of the “community” will actively be explored and discussed by engagement and analysis of multiple communities: the classroom community, the Point Park University community, and the Pittsburgh community. Students will also examine the responsibilities they have to their personal academic development.

Course Objectives:

• Define community and community values and dynamics.
• Illustrate how community engagement builds leadership, organizational skills, and awareness of cultural and social values.
• Identify campus resources and support services and describe how these services function to aid students and the campus community.
• Explain how the University mission statement and Core Curriculum relate to the education of Point Park students.
• Describe and analyze aspects of Pittsburgh’s historical growth into an urban community.
• Analyze problems and develop solutions independently and within a group.
• Locate, evaluate, and use information effectively.

Human-Centered Design  Concept Poster

A presentation format illustrating the main points of a new idea. The poster should show what the idea is, why it matters and how it works because ultimately you want to influence people to embrace your concepts by communicating what make it an appropriate solution.

Process:

• Identify a new idea to introduce.
• Create name and a tag line for the concept.
• Write a short summary of the big idea.
• Include a description of the key stakeholders.
• List a few features and benefits.
• Illustrate the concept with a big picture or diagram.
• Add a timeline for developing the solution.
• Draft the layout and create the final poster.

Benefits:

• Promotes a vision of the future
• Helps you build a business case
• Gains support from decision makers
• Provides a road map of moving forward.

Source: Innovating for People: Handbook of Human-Centered Design Methods

Letters to Representatives

Using Your Voice To Impact Change on Gun Violence

Mission Statement: The Letters to Representatives campaign will inform our peers about gun violence in our community and the United States, educate them on how to write letters to and interact with their representatives, and encourage them to use their voice to make a difference.

The Social Issue: The Las Vegas shooting marked the 273rd mass shooting in the United States in 2017 alone and the deadliest in United States history. According to the Gun Violence Archive Mass Shooting Tracker, there were 372 mass shootings in the U.S. in 2015, killing 475 people and wounding 1,879. The Gun Violence Archive also reports that approximately 13,290 people were killed in the US by firearms in 2015 and 26,819 people were injured.

Key Points:

• Raise awareness
• Educating students about gun violence and communicating with representatives
• Letter writing
• Connecting students to local representatives and organizations
• Encouraging students to use their voices and create change

Source: Innovating for People: Handbook of Human-Centered Design Methods