

Greetings! I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to reach out to update you about a class I am teaching this Fall/Midterm at MC titled DSN/PLS 149: Art, Design and American Politics (US), which has been sponsored by a Bonner Foundation grant (in the Spring 2023 and community engagement support this semester forthcoming from a min-grant proposal I just submitted) and is focused on social action skill building, research, and engagement.

Our students have divided up into three groups, each with specific demands of policy changes or new policies they hope Maryville College will implement. The group are finalizing their names and activities, but they are focused on:

- Improving Campus Parking Experiences
- Comprehensive Braille on Campus and Support for Vision-Impaired Students
- Establishing Pet Clean-up Stations & Educational Support for ESA Animals on Campus

Starting this week, the groups will be meeting with campus organizations and community groups to learn more about their issue and to begin to advocate for their demands, along with doing some research/surveys, etc. I look forward to their work in the next month as they learn these new skills about advocating for improvements on their campus.

Dr. Mark O’Gorman and I team taught this class for the first time in the Spring 2023 and I’m solo teaching it this mid-term with his guest lecturing support for a few sessions. If you have any questions, please contact either of us and we would be happy to schedule a time to chat with you. It is also part of a larger national initiative Teaching Social Action which you can learn more about (and see our course syllabi and some past student projects from this class in the Spring) here: <https://www.teachingsociation.org/>

Thank you for your time,
Adrienne Schwarte
Mark O’Gorman