Solidarity in Action: 2024-25
Advanced Leadership Team
Bishop O'Dowd High School - Oakland, California
Mr. Michael Downs M.A., M.Ed.

Mission Statement: Through solidarity with those who experience injustice, we empower O'Dowd youth to grow as a community of learners and agents of change.

Vision: We will serve the community by advocating for and working with marginalized groups in order to leave an impactful legacy that inspires future leaders.

Objectives:

- ★ **Transform** curriculum and classrooms to create even more diverse, safe, and inclusive classroom environments.
- ★ **Educate** the Bishop O'Dowd community on a wide range of social justice topics through social media and events such as Dragon Talks and the Bay Area Social Justice Teach-In.
- ★ **Learn** how to appropriately communicate with organizations outside of Bishop O'Dowd in order to collaborate on projects.
- ★ **Engage** local schools to advance Bay Area social justice causes.
- ★ **Host** events which provide a safe space for all youth to share their ideas and collaborate on projects.
- ★ **Advocate** for what we believe at the local and national level.

Specifically, while working in teams to pursue a social action campaign, students will be able to:

1. learn about issues
2. build power
3. implement various strategies and tactics
4. conduct research (historical analysis, power mapping, target analysis)
5. work with the media
6. perform campaign implementation and evaluation plans
7. practice self-reflection, small-group facilitation, and public speaking

Instructional Methods
Opening rituals, direct instruction, student projects and presentations, Harkness discussion method, reflection and meditation, guest speakers, field trips, advocacy, outdoor education.

Assessments
BTC engagement and reflection, individual and partner projects and presentations, class participation, quizzes on relevant readings/viewings.

Required Reading

1. Myers-Lipton, Scott. *CHANGE! A Student Guide to Social Action*. Routledge. 2023.
2. Articles and course readers provided by the instructor (i.e. Catholic Social Teaching).
3. Pope Francis. *Laudato Si* (2015) and *Laudate Deum* (2023).

Grade Policy: Points can be earned based on the following:

- **Beyond the Classroom (BTC) (25%)**: You must participate in outside-of-class opportunities offered by the teacher (or proposed by you and approved by teacher) and write a reflection about your experience. See Schoology for assignment details.
- **Portfolios/projects/presentations (25%)**: You will complete a variety of written and oral assignments in-class, including portfolios described in *CHANGE!* Textbook.
- **Class Participation (25%)**: You will be expected to contribute to class discussions and activities.
- **Quizzes / Assessments (25%)**: You will have occasional assessments based on what we read or watch together.

The following grade scale based on total points will be used:
A 100–90%; **B** 89–80%; **C** 79–70%; **D** 69–60%; **F** 59–00%

Technology Acceptable Use Policy: All technology in our classroom is to be used only for educational purposes approved by the teacher. Computers and phones should not be taken out for use until after our beginning-of-class mindfulness practice. Tools not toys!

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By signing below, we acknowledge that we have read and understand the above information, and will bring questions or concerns to the attention of the teacher this week.

Student signature:_____Date:_____

Parent/guardian signature:_____Date:_____