

## MGMT 579: Developing Strategies for Social Impact

SPR 2024

This class is based on a "do-and-learn" method for developing coherent strategies to solve hard societal problems. Over the course of the 10 weeks, we will go through the various stages of developing a strategy including gathering data, analyzing data for insights, developing hypotheses, building a storyline and putting together an overall presentation. The class will be divided into teams of 4 members each. Each team will work on their chosen topic for the duration of the 10 weeks. On the last day of class, each team will present their strategy for their topic. To distinguish individual effort from teamwork, there will be an individual assignment in developing a 2-page paper on a specific topic (related to the group exercise) that needs to be worked on independently by each student. 80% of the class grade will be determined on the group effort and 20% on the individual paper.

Please review the following list of topics and select one from it that feel right for you and, if at all possible, align yourselves into groups of 4 in advance of our first session. If you cannot find a group we can figure it out during or after the first class.

- Poverty in WA state and its root causes, implications and ways towards its mitigation
- Our prison system in Washington state and implications for our carceral society
- Homelessness in WA state and what can be done at the city, county and state level
- Healthcare and its availability or absence in WA state
- The growing problem of youth mental health in our state
- Food insecurity and hunger in WA state
- Impact of opioids in WA state and beyond

If you have a social impact topic that isn't in the above list but that you feel specially drawn to (and can convince others to join with you in dissecting) please do raise it in our first class and we can add it to the list.

Finally, during the 10 weeks, we will have a few guest speakers that will join us to share their thoughts on various social impact issues. While most classes will be about learning "the strategy method", we will intersperse a few sessions special discussion topics, generally following a guest speaker.