Discussion Guidelines for UNST 421: Social Justice in K-12 Settings ( ), authored by the instructor and the student members of UNST 421

In this class, we learn together as members of a community. In an effort to ensure our community develops, thrives and sustains, the following ground rules will be in effect at all times. By participating in our community, you agree to be familiar with and abide by these ground rules, as collectively created by the facilitator and the class.

What is a Capstone community?

A Capstone community is a group of individuals who work together in support of a common goal or interest; in this case our goal is to work toward educational equity AND to find ways to understand our own role in empowering or disempowering our fellow community members. We will do this in a spirit of brotherhood/sisterhood.

We are working together to support the successful achievement of our learning outcomes. We will learn from each other in this course through the central process of sharing, reflecting, and discussing. Our discussions are the major area where our course learning will take place.

As members of this community, we agree to...

- **Create a culture of respect**
  - Treat contributions with respect and encourage each other to voice our real experiences, questions, and differences in opinion.
  - Encourage critical thinking
  - Reach out for help and support when we need it, and assist others when you can.
  - Avoid attacking

- **Support a culture of confidentiality and safety**
  - Note that our forums are not open to the general public.
  - The video and audio options provide an opportunity to connect personally and to hear the nuances of each participant’s expressions. They also give a feeling of vulnerability. Please be gentle with each other.
  - Keep the confidentiality of our conversations and experiences with our community partners (e.g., please do not use student names when talking about your site work) and confidentiality about any/all conversations in the class about course topics

- **Commit to the process and to lively engagement**
  - Check in at least three times a week and put in the thought and time a 6-credit class deserves
  - Don’t procrastinate – schedule commenting throughout the week
  - Remember that we are in this together and are learning what it is to grapple with these issues as a group as part of our learning
  - Find ways to post that are thoughtful but not burdensome and natural to a dialogue
  - Pose questions
  - Work toward a sense of brotherhood/sisterhood as community

- **Experiment with communication via technology**
  - Have patience and a sense of humor about using technology.
  - Allow yourself the space to grow within this kind of communication space. Experiment and give feedback on what works best.

If there is conflict...

- Please first reach out to the individual peer with whom you have experienced conflict or misunderstanding. Do this via private email rather than through the Voice Thread forum.
- If you need additional support, please reach out to the instructor to act as a support and facilitator.

Please contact me with any additions or questions...and thank you for all of your contributions!!