**Social Science Module**

**Lab Assignment**

ESRM 304, Fall 2017

Environmental Resource Assessment

Welcome to the social science module! For your lab this week you will be working with a partner to make observations of bicycle safety on campus. In this theoretical scenario the University of Washington is in need of advice on human behavior regarding bicycle safety to assess the current status and develop recommendations for improving safety on campus.

You will be collecting observations about both the safety of the bicyclists as well as demographic information that might be used later to help develop communication materials and information specific to different audience types.

You will work with one other person in pairs to make the observations and then work in groups of 4 to write a report no longer than 5 pages double spaced. I will provide a rubric for the report at the time of the lab with more specific details for formatting and expectations for writing.

Because this is a social science module, and because interpersonal-relating is an important skill to support your professional development when working with interdisciplinary teams we will also spend a little time discussing effective team-work. You will report how your individual partners and teams worked together throughout this lab as part of your grade for this module.

**Learning & Experiential Objectives:**

* Apply course concepts learned in lecture to examples in the urban environment
* Increase experience in social science field methods and observation
* Develop data collection, entry and analysis skills working with social science data
* Gain familiarity with bias and common errors associated with social science research
* Build skills in effective team-work and interdisciplinary collaboration
* Gain a greater appreciation for humans as a unique object of study
* Have fun!

In the group lab report you will be expected to describe the problem your study is addressing, what methods you used to collect and analyze the data, what solution you propose based on your findings, the limitations of your work and the potential for error.

 [See second page for more details]

In order for everyone to receive full credit on the lab report each individual also needs to submit either a typed or hand-written 1-page reflection on your experience including the following:

1. What did you learn personally from your research findings? (Ex. Did it make you think more about how you ride your bike or what others might experience when they ride?)
2. What was your experience like working together as a team? What didn’t work? What was really helpful? What lessons did you learn? How might you do differently next time?

**Bonus Question:** Do you believe interpersonal-relating and trying to improve the group-work / team-work experience is important for our society? Beyond working on a research team are there other benefits?

**How to share your lab observations, reports and individual reflection papers:**

In order to get full credit for the lab you need to turn in your field observation sheet, group lab report and typed or hand-written individual reflection electronically through the course website. The field observation sheet is due Friday by 8pm and can either be scanned or digitally photographed (this is a great habit to get into to create back-ups of field notes and collected data in case anything happens to the physical copies). Your reflection can be typed, scanned, or digitally photographed. Your group lab report needs to be typed. All items need to be uploaded to the course drop box by the due dates below.

**Due Dates:**

Field Observation Sheet -- Friday, October 27th by 8pm

Individual Reflection – Sunday, October 29th by 8pm

Group Report – One week from your lab by 8pm (either Tuesday 10/31 or Wednesday 11/1)

 