

## Group Projects

As part of this course you will be working on one of the projects below, or one of your own creation. We recommend that groups have three to six people. You will have 30 minutes for group project work at the end of every class meeting. Each group will share the results of their project work at the end of the term. Groups may make short presentations to the class, or distribute short reports on their work.

The projects have been created to give students experience working in an interdisciplinary field doing work that combines theory with practice. In addition, projects have been chosen that will have utility in hopes that the class work will be more meaningful for students.

NOTE: Feel free to design your own project, especially if your views don't line up with any of the following projects. At our next class meeting we will be adding your ideas to this list and giving students time to divide into groups according to their interests.

1. Create an alternative employment guide for scientists and engineers. In the course we will discuss issues of ethics and science. In addition we will discuss how the military industrial complex drives research on University campuses. How does this shape curriculum on campuses? How do students get tracked for jobs working on nuclear weapons projects? Keep these questions in mind as you work on your project. This project could involve:
  - Researching jobs with nonmilitary capacities that hire similar majors that are recruited for nuclear weapon programs. Compile a list of these employers with contact information. Make sure to list what majors they hire. Organize to facilitate the presence and visibility of said employers on campus, career fairs, etc.
  - Creating criteria for what make a profession socially responsible. Use these criteria to decide which employers to include in your final product.
  - Creating a final product that is attractive and effective in conveying the information in a concise and accurate way.

Project Goal: To provide students considering work in the nuclear weapons field with a guide to alternative employment options.

Format: The final product can be a handout, booklet or another creative form. Remember to identify who your audience is (a potential nuclear weapons designer). Consider what form would be best in reaching your audience and fulfilling the goal of the project.

*Helpful exercises:* the following research might help you think about how to frame and go about your project. Identify 3 ways that the national labs recruit on campus. Identify specific projects with military applications that are being carried out on campus. Visit a career fair on campus and monitor which students the labs recruit.

2. Support Fiat Pax's poll of UC Berkeley students' opinions on nuclear weapons research. In this course we will discuss the lack of information available on campus about the UC's role in nuclear weapons development. This project should involve:
  - Making announcements about the poll and handing out literature in classes.
  - Meeting with department heads' assistants and getting commitments from the departments to send out emails to the majors announcing the poll.
  - Meeting with campus groups and asking them to publicize, sponsor, or otherwise support the survey.
  - Tabling on Sproul.

Project Goal: To educate students about nuclear weapons issues while facilitating research on students' opinions about the labs.

3. Create a curriculum on nuclear weapons issues.

Create a curriculum on nuclear weapons issues and/or the militarization of

education; use it in a college or high school class, or with a student group.

4. Letter writing, editorial writing, and speaking at regents' meetings.  
Students compose statements to present at UC Regents' meetings during public comment periods pertaining to Regents' decisions concerning management of labs. Students also conduct letter-writing campaigns to regents, other university officials, Department of Energy officials, Congress, and the media.
5. Help with planning for 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary events.  
Students help plan, facilitate, and recruit participants for various activism events to be held this summer for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. Local organizations to work with include the Livermore Conversion Project (Oakland) and the Nevada Desert Experience (Berkeley).
6. Organize an educational event.  
Organize an educational event, public forum, or debate on campus regarding UC/nuclear weapons issues. Potential organizations to work with include the PACS department and the people who do the Circle of Concern vigil at the West entrance to campus.
7. Street theater; counter recruitment at career fairs where Livermore Lab is recruiting.  
Counter recruitment involves talking to students before or after they've talked to the lab representatives, giving them information about the kind of research that goes on there and talking to them, and perhaps asking them to sign a pledge not to work on weapons projects. There are many weapons-related buildings on campus (ex. Le Conte, where Oppenheimer had his office) to stage die-ins or street theater, to raise student awareness of the university's historical and ongoing relationship with militarism.
8. Research weapons makers, weapons production sites, weapon decision makers.  
Design graphical representations for easy and aesthetic communication of statistics, economic data, and other relevant information about corporate and government weapons makers.
9. Get involved in the global Mayors for Peace campaign.  
This campaign was launched last year by the mayor of Hiroshima to promote nuclear abolition. Students can work with the Oakland based Western States Legal Foundation.
10. Web design and facilitation.  
Work with our webmaster Victor to design and maintain the course website, and work with other groups to help them publish their projects online.
11. Research Department of Energy budget appropriations.  
Analyze the DoE's budget requests for the lab and present the results to the class. Research Congressional process for passing budget appropriations, with special attention to money requested for new nuclear projects in recent years.
12. Get involved with the Bay Area Physicians for Social Responsibility, or the Science and Environmental, Health Network promoting the precautionary principle.