SW 305 Theories and Practices of Community Action and Social Change

Course title:

Course #/term:  SW 305, Section 003, Fall 2020

Time and place:

Tuesday 2-5 ONLINE - https://msu.zoom.us/j/96384678523

Credit hours:  3

Prerequisites:

Instructor:  Diana WasaAnung'gokwe Seales

Pronouns:  She, her, hers

Email:  dseales@umich.edu    Phone:  810-240-7459

Contact info:

You may expect a response within 24 hours

Office:  335

Office hours:  By appointment

1. Course Statement

Course Description: This foundation course for the Community Action and Social Change Minor is designed to prepare students to be informed and active participants in the process of community building and social change. The course uses a multidisciplinary framework to develop competencies that
will help students envision what community action and social change look like, identify and implement steps towards social change, build on positive sources of power, indigenous knowledge and experiences of individuals, groups, and communities who are engaged in social change efforts. CASC Minor Mission Statement. The CASC minor is for students interested in developing knowledge, skills, and experiences in community action and social change. The multidisciplinary 16 credit minor will prepare students to: 1. examine community action and social change using a multidisciplinary framework; 2. address community action and social change in multilingual and multicultural communities; 3. integrate social justice values into the community action and social change processes; and 4. engage in service learning to promote community action and social change. 1.

1. Guiding Principles

- The core values of the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics (service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relationships, integrity, competence) frames our interactions with students inside and outside the classroom.

- PODS: Privilege, Oppression, Diversity and Social Justice are taught to similar degrees in every class.

- We represent Social Work – both the School and the profession – in our interactions with students, including academic and career advice.

- We strive to respond appropriately to student inquiries in a timely and personally engaging manner.

- We structure courses with student participation in mind throughout the term, notably by some conversation about ground rules at the start of the term and some identifiable closure activity at the end.

- We see curricular and co-curricular opportunities as intersecting and complementary. We seek to find opportunities for high touch, high impact work with students
Course Goals

- Students will examine their own identity development (race, class, gender, sexual/relational orientation, religion, nationality, ability, other), recognize multiple social identities, and engage in critical analysis of power, privilege and oppression.
- Students will explore the meaning of community and social change.
- Students will develop skills in interviewing, relationship-building, and group facilitation.
- Students will gain awareness of historical framework and theory regarding community action and social change.
- Students will engage in structural analysis with regard to community action and social change.
- Students will develop an understanding of community-building and organizing skills.

Four Curricular Themes

- Multiculturalism and Diversity issues will be explored as students identify self-knowledge and skills for regularly monitoring their practice within the context of their work. The PODS (Privilege, Oppression, Diversity and Social Justice) lens will be applied to practice situations and students will have an opportunity to discuss relevant field issues related to the diversity dimensions (ability, age, culture, economic class, ethnicity, family structure, gender, gender identity and expression, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation).

- Social Justice and Social Change issues will be addressed by helping students to critically assess their commitment to and skills for enacting change towards social justice goals. The role of the social worker will be discussed as reflected by their individual experiences and reflection.

- Promotion, Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation approaches will be addressed within the context of the student’s orientation to practice. Small group discussions will allow the student to discuss, review, compare, and contrast alternative approaches and frameworks while reflecting on their individual work and experiences.

- Behavioral and Social Science research approaches will be addressed within the context of the student's orientation and method. Small group discussions will allow the student to discuss, review, compare, and contrast alternative approaches and frameworks while reflecting on their individual work and experiences.
Accommodations for students with disabilities

If you need an accommodation for a disability, please let me know as soon as possible. Many aspects of this course, the assignments, the in-class activities, and teaching methods can be modified to facilitate your participation and progress throughout the semester. I will make every effort to use the resources available to us, such as the services for Students with Disabilities, the Adaptive Technology Computing Site, and the like. If you chose to disclose your disability, I will (to the extent permitted by law) treat that information as private and confidential. For more information and resources, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities office at G664 Haven Hall, (734) 7633000 or go to [https://ssd.umich.edu/](https://ssd.umich.edu/).

Health and Wellness Services

Health and wellness encompasses situations or circumstances that may impede your success within the program. The Office of Student Services offers health and wellness services that are directed to the MSW student body. Feel free to visit the SSW Health and Wellness website regarding any health, mental health or wellness issue. This could include need for advocacy and referral to University or community resources, financial resources or counseling.

Dependent Care Resources

For students with child or parenting/elder care responsibilities, feel free to consult the Students with Children website (http://www.studentswithchildren.umich.edu). This site is dedicated to the needs of students at UM who juggle parenting/elder care, study, and work. Resources include childcare, financial assistance, social support, housing, and health care information. The website was created by the former Committee on Student Parent Issues (COSPI). For additional information on work/life support please also visit the Work/Life Resource Center site (http://www.hr.umich.edu/worklife/) and the UM Child Care gateway (http://www.hr.umich.edu/childcare/).

Course Assignments & Grading:

2. Class Requirements

Required Texts and Class Materials:

Most readings are in Canvas. We will have a book club style reading on Joyful Militancy via the discussion board.

COURSE OUTLINE
9/1 Introduction to Community Action and Social Change (CASC)

**Week 1:** This class will be a general introduction to CASC and to SW 305. In particular, we’ll look at the relationships between CASC and Social Work values and ethics. We will also get organized for the semester, review the class structure and assignments, discuss expectations, and begin to build our class community. Please be ready to think about a goal for you in the class and a critical question/issue you would like to learn/think about.

**PODCAST:**

Hidden Brain: YOU 2.0 (How design thinking can help you find your life’s purpose) [You 2.0: Getting Unstuck | Hidden Brain](https://www.npr.org/transcripts/546716951)


**BLOG READINGS:**

Adrienne maree brown, PANDOWRIMO: Conversation between the crisis and the virus [http://adriennemareebrown.net](http://adriennemareebrown.net)

Joyful Militancy Blog: [Friendship is a root of Freedom](https://joyfulmilitancy.com/2017/12/11/friendship-as-a-root-of-freedom/)

9/8 Understanding our Story: Being aware of who we are as Change Agents. What Informs our Perspectives?

**Week 2:** In this class, we will spend time looking inward to discuss what drives our interest in social justice work, to explore our own stories, and how our perspectives are shaped by who we are. We will explore being vulnerable and our understanding about the power and potentially of storytelling as a method of community change work. We will also do an activity that examines how we think about ourselves as social justice leaders and how we need to be aware of why, who, and how we engage in social justice work.

Reading Options & Tasks to Prepare for Class Session (I will offer a lot of potential material that pertain to each weeks topics. Please pick 2 – 3 each week that pique your interest and work for your learning style):


VIDEO: https://www.ted.com/talks/brene_brown_on_vulnerability

https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story?language=en

Task: Story of self-worksheet (will be passed out in first class)-come prepared to share your story.

9/22 Understanding Community Action and Social Change Terms & Perspectives

HISTORY PROJECT TOPICS DUE

Week 3: This class will help us “unpack” the concept of Community Action and Social Change through exploring key terms and examining fundamental concepts embedded in social justice and social change work, such as social justice, power, privilege, discrimination, oppression, empowerment, and equity. It’s important that we begin the semester with shared understanding. We will also spend time discussing critical questions/challenges that emerge in social justice work here on campus, such as entering communities, working with others, and combatting “savior complexes”.

Required Reading & Tasks to Prepare for Class Session:

Keys Concepts for Course:


**VIDEO:** Building Resilient Communities: Case of Pine Ridge: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e2Re-KrQNa4

9/29 Building Relationships and Facilitating Participation

**SEMESTER LONG PROJECT OUTLINE DUE**

Guest Presentation by the Ginsberg Center: *Workshop on Entering, Engaging and Exiting Communities Respectfully.*

**Week 4:** This week we will focus on skills needed for community change work by looking at HOW to engage in community change work. We will look at how to build relationships and what skills are needed to build relationships, facilitate participation, work together for change, and thoughtfully exit communities.

**10/6 Community Change as a Process: Systems, Power, Impacts and Approaches**

**Week 5:** This week we will focus on developing frameworks for community change, critically examining different models and approaches to change work, and learning from historical examples of community action and social change. We will look at community change as a system that impacts individuals, groups, communities, institutions, and society. We’ll also explore concepts of power. We will develop in class concept maps of the various ideas.


Community projects as social activism: From direct action to direct services. Chapter 11: Social movements to social services: From the Black Panthers to the Young Lords (pp. 113-118). Los Angeles, CA: Sage.

**Review two web examples** of the following organizations and come ready to discuss their approach:  
▪ Southern Echo: http://southernecho.org/  
▪ Chicago Freedom Schools: http://chicagofreedschools.org/  
▪ Neutral Zone: http://neutral-zone.org/wp/  
▪ Center for Story Based Strategy: http://www.storybasedstrategy.org/  
▪ Californians United for Responsible Budget: http://curbprisonspending.org/  
▪ Interfaith Coalition for Peace and Justice: http://www.icpj.net/program-areas/  
▪ Allied Media: https://www.alliedmedia.org/  
▪ EMEAC (East Michigan Environmental Action Council)

**Learning from Grace-**

**DUE: CONCEPT MAP**

**Week 6:** This class will focus on learning from Grace Lee Boggs, an incredible activist and social change agent with a legacy of social justice, community action, and social change. We’ll watch her documentary together, and then discuss the lessons learned from her work and life for us. What are the critical questions for consideration about community action and social change? What are critical issues for practice?

**Required Reading & Tasks to Prepare for Class Session:**


▪ Website for James and Grace Lee Boggs Center, http://boggscenter.org/ **IN CLASS VIDEO:**

**TBD**= Evening workshop/event by Tawanna Petty, one of the current leaders at the Boggs Center. She will discuss James and Grace Lee Boggs and lessons learned from their work and life. Time TBD. **There will be no class on October 25th as this is the replacement class for Week 8 class.**

**10/20 Learning in the Field: Legacy of Boggs**

**Week 7:** This week will involve a special opportunity that takes our learning outside of the classroom. As a class we will go to Detroit to learn and engage in
the work of the Boggs Center and a tour of activism in Detroit. We will meet with the other SW 305 class
to do a joint-field trip. More information will be provided.

10/27 Week 9:

DUE: HISTORY PAPER AND PRESENTATIONS.

In this class we'll focus on our history examples that we have been learning about. We will share the
templates from our papers and think about some of the major movements, organizations, and individuals
that have shaped community action and social change work. In particular, through our sharing and
learning we will discuss the lessons and ideas that we can draw from these examples for our own work.
Remember to bring a hand-out for the class.

Tasks to Prepare for Class Session:
▪ There are no readings for today.

Task: Come prepared to share and present your example from your paper (see assignments
instructions).

11/10 Strategy, Planning and Action

Guest Presenters: David Bullock and Charles Williams

Week 10: This class will focus on the importance of planning and strategy for community change. Once
you have an idea, how do you begin to move forward to make change? Strategy is critical for community
organizing efforts. In this class, we'll also hear from community organizers about their work. As you read
and prepare for class, I'd like you to think about how you use strategy in your work (regardless of if your
work is community organizing versus community projects). Does your group/work have a strategy? How
do you think about your work?

Required Reading & Tasks to Prepare for Class Session:
▪ Bobo, K., Kendall, J., & Max, S. Organizing for social change: Midwest academy manual for
activists. Chapter 4: Developing a strategy (pp. 30-48). Santa Ana, CA: Seven Locks Press.

▪ Morrison, E., & Hutcheson, S. (June 20, 2014) Accelerating civic innovation through
Retrieved from http://www.ssireview.org/blog/entry/accelerating_civic_innovation_through_strategic_doing

Case Study: Welton, A. D., & Freelon, R. (2018). Community organizing as educational leadership:
Lessons from Chicago on the politics of racial justice, Journal on Research and Educational
Leadership, 13(1), 79-105. https://doi.org/10.1177%2F1942775117744193 Allyhood, Co-Liberation,
Coalitions, & Working Together

Week 11: In this class will look more specifically at the skills needed to work together for change. We
know that community action and social change is not an individual activity and that it is strengthened
when different ideas and perspectives are brought together. What are the skills needed to work together
and facilitate participation across differences? What can we learn from other coalitions? How do we think about the various roles in CASC-type work? We will use class to share ideas and practice skills. We will also spend time in class talking about the role of social media. In what ways does media does it help? In what ways does it hurt? What are the implications for our own work? How do we see the future of social media for our own social change efforts?

Required Reading & Tasks to Prepare for Class Session:

- Gehl, L. A colonized ally meets a decolonized ally.
- Color of Change: A Messages to Allies and Aspiring Allies (pp. 12-15).

IN CLASS VIDEO: “Why Coalition Building is Necessary” [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Clun3f0Ksc&list=PLNB_zLArf75S-HOPC0d8eauj9J9sv03kL](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Clun3f0Ksc&list=PLNB_zLArf75S-HOPC0d8eauj9J9sv03kL)

PROJECT PRESENTATIONS DUE Tasks to Prepare for Class Session:

- **Week 12:** We will focus on our action projects. We will have the opportunity to hear about each other’s projects and reflect on the common themes and learning across the projects. Task: 20-25-minute group presentations (see assignment instructions). Remember that the presenters for this week just need the presentations, other materials can be submitted on December 6th.

PROJECT PRESENTATIONS DUE: Our Future Selves- Takeaways and Reflections **Week 13:** In our final class together will finish our project presentations and then we will reflect on the learning from the semester and discuss our takeaways. We’ll discuss ways to sustain our efforts community change makers as well as to think about what we want to remember to tell our future selves.

Required Reading & Tasks to Prepare for Class Session:


**TASK:** LETTER TO OUR FUTURE SELVES DUE ON DECEMBER 8TH

| 1. Assignments |
| 2. Course Design |
| 3. This course uses an engaged learning approach and employs several pedagogical strategies to promote knowledge and skill development. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Assignments</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Points/ Percentage</th>
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Core Concepts-Concept Map/Play List  
October 13, 2019  
20

History Project-Topic due September 20th  
November 3, 2019  
30

Semester-Long Project- Outline due September 29th  
November 24, and December 8, 2019  
30

Final Reflection Paper-Letter to our Future Self  
December 8, 2019  
10

Attendance & Participation (Reading questions, in-class activities, etc.)  
Ongoing  
10

Total Possible Points 100

Most classes will be structured to include a lecture or presentation, accompanied by a discussion or activity period. We will employ several pedagogical strategies such as: small group work, class discussions, PowerPoint, experiential exercises, audiovisuals, writing exercises, case examples, and other activities in order to facilitate understanding of the course content and to promote knowledge development.

1. Attendance and class participation

Class attendance and active participation (large and small group discussion, individual reflection, oral participation, etc) are vital to your overall performance. Participation through student-student and instructor-student interactions are important considerations for optimal performance. Live sessions will always begin promptly at 10AM, and recorded sessions should occur during the designated course time. Submissions on the discussion board are required for this class, and are an extension of your attendance and participation for asynchronous lectures. Scheduled posts are due the “day of” scheduled classes. Excessive absences or avoidance of lectures will be evident in performance on course assignments where you are expected to apply knowledge from course materials. ·Policy on Class Attendance

1. Grading

Because of the disturbance that the COVID19 pandemic has created for faculty and students there is a new grading policy for undergrads that was announced by the Provost (note this is only for undergrads
at this time). Grades will be given for students that earn an A through a C. Any student earning a D or below will receive a "NRC- No record Covid" grade.

1. In addition, students are eligible to withdraw from a class at any time without penalty, even after the traditional drop/add timeframe.

1. Class Recording and Course Materials

Audio and video recording of in-class lectures and discussions is prohibited without the advance written permission of the instructor. Students with an approved accommodation from the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities permitting the recording of class meetings must present documentation to the instructor in advance of any recording being done. The instructor reserves the right to disallow recording for a portion of any class time where privacy is a special concern. If the instructor chooses to record a class, they will decide which classes, if any, are recorded, what portion of each class is recorded, and whether a recording is made available on the course management website. On days when classes are recorded, students will be notified in advance that a recording will occur and be provided with an option to opt-out. Class recordings and course materials may not be reproduced, sold, published or distributed to others, in whole or in part, without the written consent of the instructor.

Additional information on class recordings can be found the Recording and Privacy Concerns FAQ (https://safecomputing.umich.edu/be-aware/privacy/privacy-u-m/videoconferencing/recording-privacy-concerns-faq)

Additional School and University policies, information and resources are available here: https://ssw.umich.edu/standard-policies-information-resources. They include:

- Safety and emergency preparedness
- Mental health and well-being
- Teaching evaluations
- Proper use of names and pronouns
- Accommodations for students with disabilities
- Religious/spiritual observances
- Military deployment
- Writing skills and expectations
- Academic integrity and plagiarism

POSSIBLE GROUPS:
Increase the University of Michigan’s impact in Detroit by focusing on 3 emerging areas (and anchor groups).

**FORGOTTEN HARVEST**

https://www.forgottenharvest.org/covid19/

**DETROIT COVID19 RESPONSE**

https://www.facebook.com/groups/2554127328195074/

CONNECT2COMMUNITY

https://connect2community.umich.edu

Noteworthy workshops and events: (attend one or all as your final project)

**The Wilds Beyond Climate Justice**

A gathering at the end of hope, happening 31 May to 4 June 2020. The Wilds Beyond Climate Justice is a global online event for us to engage each other in activities, actions, and conversations that boldly def
Western logic and sing new possibilities into being. One part ceremony, one part workshop, and one part creative arts project, the Wilds Beyond Climate Justice will feature presentations and workshops from a number of Detroit artists, culture creators, and healers. More information can be found here:

https://www.wildsbeyondclimatejustice.com/  

**Narration workshop (panel of Detroit and Flint activists)**

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-power-of-storytelling-tickets-103845440508  

**MOVEMENT GENERATION**

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BnqYQzmsSF6Ck73F07ShKw  

**Grassroots International**

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApdOqrrz4rGNGUPYPz9AC6ECmV8ekBsTeu

### Course Summary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue Feb 16, 2021</td>
<td>🎨 Semester Long Action PROPOSAL</td>
<td>due by 11:59pm</td>
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<td>Tue Feb 23, 2021</td>
<td>🎨 Core Concepts-Concept Map/Play List</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue Mar 30, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue Apr 20, 2021</td>
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<td>Semester Long ACTION Project</td>
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<td>4: Week 4 asynchronous lesson</td>
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<td>6: week 6 asynchronous lesson - Ally, Accomplice, Co-conspirator</td>
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<td>Discussion Post Examples</td>
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<td>LAST asynchronous class - People's Movement Assembly and coalition building</td>
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<td>participation and attendance (Reading questions, in-class activities, etc.)</td>
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<td>SUMMARY OF ALL ASSIGNMENTS AND DUE DATES</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 8: A synchronous lesson - We Are The Future</td>
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