Course title: SW 305 Theories and Practices of Community Action and Social Change

Course #/term: SW 305, Section 001, Winter 2021

Time and place: Monday 10 - 1 ONLINE -
https://umich.zoom.us/j/94943307023
(Links to an external site.)
(Links to an external site.)

Credit hours: 3

Prerequisites:

Instructor: Diana WasaAnung'gokwe Seales

Pronouns: She, her, hers

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

You may expect a response within 24 hours

Office: 335

Office hours: By appointment

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.

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/

(Links to an external site.)
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 please 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/ (Links to an external site.)

). I will work with you if you need to bring your children/ dependents with you to class. Visitors are welcome to attend class I would just need prior notice.

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

*MAY BE REVISED BY INSTRUCTOR TO FIT NEEDS OF THE COURSE*

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W1 :1/25 Synchronous Lesson - Introduction to Community Action and Social Change (CASC)

https://umich.zoom.us/j/94943307023
**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](Links to an external site.)

Hidden Brain: Why Loneliness Is a Health Issue [Hidden Brain](Links to an external site.)

**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 [Joyful Militancy Blog](Links to an external site.)

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**W2 : 2/1 ASYNCHRONOUS LESSON - Understanding our Story: Being aware of who we are as Change Agents. What Informs our Perspectives?**

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.

**ASYNCHRONOUS LESSON:**
Our lesson for this week is to start to understand some of the core concepts of social justice.

1. watch short videos that pertain to some social justice core concepts:

POWER AND PRIVILEGE:

Sometimes you're a caterpillar:
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=sometimes+you%27re+a+caterpillar
(Links to an external site.)

Fear of a brown planet:

Aamer Rahman (Fear of a Brown Planet) - Reverse Racism
(Links to an external site.)

LEARNING FROM THE COMMUNITY:

Malik Yakini:

Food, race and justice | Malik Yankini | TEDxMuskegon
(Links to an external site.)

Winonna LaDuke:

TEDxTC - Winona LaDuke - Seeds of Our Ancestors, Seeds of Life
(Links to an external site.)
UNDERSTANDING POSITIONALITY AND VULNERABILITY:

Brene Brown:

The power of vulnerability | Brené Brown

2. Once you have completed the videos please take this survey:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1rELMWg-FEtkBBF3Mn_TKrJgxu6-Tf2WO_H2BS9Ocrs/edit

This survey will also count as your discussion post. Please also pick 2 - 3 pieces of media (readings, podcasts or videos) to digest. This can be from the week one post (Hidden Brain and blog posts) or the reading found at the bottom of this page.

3. Please also become familiar and start on your core concept map assignment. If you have any questions please feel free to run a draft or idea by me before the final is due Oct.

CORE CONCEPT MAP ASSIGNMENT:
In this assignment, students will demonstrate their understanding of core concepts of community action and social change by defining key ideas, developing key questions, and showcasing their understanding of the basic concepts. There will be two lectures and multiple readings and media pieces you may draw from to create your mind map (may be an actual mind map, playlist or memestorm) to show your understanding of some of the core concepts within the course. I'd recommend using padlet for any of these choices. Pick ONE of the following formats to create your "mind map"

*Students can create a mind map. This is a one page graphic page with circles that connect. Create one mind map for each concept.

*Students can create a Spotify type playlist of at least 10 songs that reflect core concepts. For each song, write at least one paragraph that discusses what the concept is and why you selected the song as a representation of the concept. If you’d like to actually create the list, please accompanying a link to the list and a written explanation (short paragraph for each). You can create a music playlist or video episodes.

*Students may create a meme storm. Find memes that capture the concepts that you’ve picked and write a short explanation for each.

RUBRIC:

You will be evaluated on the following:

Mastery of Core Concepts
Student demonstrates an understanding of a range of core concepts needed for community action and social change work.

This criterion is linked to a Learning Outcome
Creativity/Innovation
Student demonstrates creativity in their ability to showcase concepts
This criterion is linked to a Learning Outcome

Critical Connections
Student is able to provide a critical analysis of the concepts- exploring connections, critical discussion of concepts, and exploration of key questions (5 points)

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):

POSSIBLE READINGS:


W3: 2/8 Synchronous lesson - Skill development to work for change

https://umich.zoom.us/j/94943307023

(Links to an external site.)

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 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).

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**W4 : 2/15 - Asynchronous Lesson - Understanding Community Action and Social Change Terms & Perspectives**

**HISTORY PROJECT TOPICS DUE**

**Week 4:** 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:*
Adams, L. A. Bell, & P. Griffin (Eds.), What is social justice? (pp. 21-26). New York, NY,

Checkoway, B. (1997). Core concepts for community change. Journal of
Community Practice, 4(1), 11-29.

1: Imagining social work and social justice (pp. 1-44). New York, NY: Oxford University
Press

Chapter 3: Social construction of difference (pp.15-20). New York, NY: Routledge.  For
Discussion:

Harleen Kaur: Leaving the savior mentality behind (Michigan Daily, February
25, 2014)-
https://www.michigandaily.com/opinion/02harleen-kaur-leaving-savior-mentality-behind2
6

Response to Leaving the savior mentality behind (Letter to Editor, Michigan
Daily, March 17, 2014)-
https://www.michigandaily.com/opinion/03letter-editor-alternative-spring-break18

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

W5 : 2/22 - SYNCHRONOUS LESSON - Building Relationships and
Facilitating Participation

https://umich.zoom.us/j/94943307023

(Links to an external site.)

SEMESTER LONG PROJECT OUTLINE DUE

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.

Community Change as a Process: Systems, Power, Impacts, and Approaches
Asynchronous lesson - complete lesson may be found in 'Assignments'

**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.


Accomplices Not Allies: Abolishing the Ally Industrial Complex. An Indigenous perspective

Joyful Militancy. Ch. 3: Trust and Responsibility as Common Notions


*(Links to an external site.)*

▪ Grassroots Global Justice: [https://ggjalliance.org/](https://ggjalliance.org/)

*(Links to an external site.)*


*(Links to an external site.)*

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**W7 3/1: NO CLASS Spring Break**

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**W6: 3/8 Entering, Engaging, Exiting Communities**
This week we will focus on Entering Engaging and Exiting Communities. Danyelle from the Ginsberg Center will join us to do a workshop/zoom session. The unique zoom and password is below. What are the critical questions for consideration about community action and social change? What are the critical issues for practice?

**CONCEPT MAP DUE**

**Zoom Session:**

- Link: [https://umich.zoom.us/j/96215577624](https://umich.zoom.us/j/96215577624)
- Password: G1nsberg!

**WEEK 8 3/16: ASYNCHRONOUS - We are the future: How can we use Sci-fi, Afro & Indigenous Futurism to work with Communities to envision a better future?**

**Readings:**

- Indigenous Science (Fiction) - Kyle Powys-Whyte
- Coming to You From an Indigenous Future
- Joyful Militancy ch. 3: Trust and Responsibility as Commons Notions

**Blog:** “Your mind will tell you lies but your body can’t” – An interview with Zainab Amadhy

(Links to an external site.)

(Please follow the whole lesson in asynchronous lessons in assignments week 8)
**W9: 3/22 SYNCHRONOUS - IDENTITY AND PRIVILEGE**

In class work:

Exercise in Privilege and I am from Poem

Book club (Joyful Militancy)

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**W10: 3/29 - SYNCHRONOUS CLASS - learning from our Herstories**

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 examples 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.

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**W11: 4/5 Asynchronous class - Strategy, Planning and Action**

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:


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**Week 12: 4/12 Asynchronous Lesson - The Future we need now**

**I VIDEO:** “Why Coalition Building is Necessary”

*Why Coalition Building is necessary*

*(Links to an external site.)*

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**PROJECT PRESENTATIONS DUE NEXT WEEK**  Tasks to Prepare for Class Session:

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**W13: 4/19 Synchronous class - Learning from each other - final action presentations**

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 Canvas.**

**DUE: Our Future Selves- Takeaways and Reflections**

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: 20-25-minute group presentations (see assignment instructions)

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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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Concepts-Concept Map/Play List</td>
<td>3/8</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History Project-(Topic due 2/15)</td>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester-Long Project- Outline due 2/22</td>
<td>4/19</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Reflection Paper-Letter to our Future Self</td>
<td>4/19</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Participation (Reading questions, in- class activities, etc.)</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 begin at 10AM, and asynchronous session can occur during the designated course time or sometime during the week that works within your schedule. 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” the next class as we will often have in class discussions based on your work. Excessive absences or avoidance of lectures will be evident in performance on course assignments where you are expected to apply knowledge from course materials.

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.
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

(Links to an external site.)

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

(Links to an external site.)

. 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:

*BIRWOOD HOUSE*


(Links to an external site.)

*DETROIT POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE*


(Links to an external site.)

*DETROIT WATER SHUT OFFS - WE THE PEOPLE*

https://www.wethepeopleofdetroit.com/get-involved

(Links to an external site.)

*GENERAL BAKER INSTITUTE*
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/
(Links to an external site.)

*DETOUR COVID19 RESPONSE*
https://www.facebook.com/groups/2554127328195074/
(Links to an external site.)

CONNECT2COMMUNITY
https://connect2community.umich.edu
(Links to an external site.)

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 defy 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/
(Links to an external site.)

*Narration workshop (panel of Detroit and Flint activists)*
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-power-of-storytelling-tickets-103845440508

(Links to an external site.)

*MOVEMENT GENERATION*

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

(Links to an external site.)

*Grassroots International*

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

(Links to an external site.)

THRIIVE (Tribal Health: Reaching out InVolves Everyone) project and Two Spirit & LGBTQ+ Project at the NPAIHB for a **Two Spirit/LGBTQ+ Self-Love in the Time of COVID-19** webinar. Thursday Sept 10\(^\text{th}\) 4 - 5pm to register click here: https://echo.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJloduigrTMqGNYA66VPQWF1l3hDoUSJnrRM

(Links to an external site.)

Stay Connected by texting LGBTQ2S to 97779.