



Course Title:	ENGAGE: Community
Course Number:	SW 759 (Section 001), Winter 2021
Time and Place:	See schedule of virtual discussions and meet-ups below VIRTUAL
Prerequisites:	None
Instructor:	Ayesha Ghazi Edwin, LLMSW, CLSSGB
Pronouns:	She/her/hers
Contact Info:	Email: <a href="mailto:ayeshag@umich.edu">ayeshag@umich.edu</a> Phone: 734-972-6416
Office Hours:	By appointment

## 1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

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As a community-informed profession, and in this moment of historic progress and crisis in our nation, it is essential that social workers learn how to work with communities - and assist them - in their response to crisis. Whether it be community outreach during a pandemic, organizing and mobilizing community members to protest against racial injustice, or internal crises management within organizations, a social worker must be grounded in actual community needs, and be able to apply both micro and macro social work skills, theory, and practice to individuals, groups, communities, and organizations experiencing significant change and transformation.

SSW ENGAGE hosts virtual discussions, a series of equity focused conversations that uplift the community response to social justice issues. These conversations help to uplift the work of actual advocates in the field, and urge social workers to reflect and discuss how our professional values and skills are being utilized in movements for social change. These virtual discussions will form the basis of this course.

### Course Design:

This course consists of both asynchronous and synchronous content, including virtual discussions, asynchronous readings, synchronous virtual meet-up workshops, and discussion posts by students focused on reflective praxis and the application of social work practice and skills.

## Course Objectives:

- Create an intentional community space where students can discuss and reflect upon the role of social workers in communities and social change movements, and application of social work skills in community organizing practice
- Explore crisis response and management with individuals, communities and organizations and the policy issues that help or hinder effectiveness.
- Understand social work values and skills utilized in mobilizing communities for social change
- Gain exposure to innovative techniques and interventions happening in real time.
- Understand the application of micro and macro social work skills to real life community issues.
- Gain in-depth understanding of structural and systemic barriers to equity and barriers and facilitators to social justice

## 2. CLASS REQUIREMENTS

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### Text and Class Materials:

This class will utilize Canvas, which will include content for you to watch, read, and listen to, as well as our lecture slides and handouts. Login to the Canvas portal at: <https://canvas.umich.edu> to access the course materials. To help inform class discussions and facilitate engaged learning, students are expected to complete asynchronous content prior to the class session.

### Class Schedule:

\* *Remember to see the "Module" page in Canvas for the required reading before each session, and discussion posts after each session.*

#### Date/Time of Virtual Sessions

#### **Intro to ENGAGE: Community - Course Meet-up and Syllabus Overview**

Thursday, January 21st, 12-1 pm

Join URL: <https://umich.zoom.us/j/97056081610>

**CASC + ENGAGE: Youth Empowerment and Organizing**

Thursday, January 21st, 5:00-7:00 pm

Join URL: <https://umich.zoom.us/j/96187857587>**Defunding the Police in our Public Schools**

Thursday, February 11th, 2021, 12:00 pm-2:00 pm

Join URL: <https://umich.zoom.us/j/97763080435>**Mid-Semester Meet-up**

Thursday, February 25th, 12:00 pm-2:00 pm

Join URL: <https://umich.zoom.us/j/95538902415>**The Movement for Economic Equity in Detroit**

Thursday, March 4th, 2021, 12:00-2:00 pm

Join URL: <https://umich.zoom.us/j/92567070608>**Poverty doesn't Pause: Housing Insecurity during a Pandemic**

Thursday, March 25th, 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Join URL: <https://umich.zoom.us/j/99081858926>**Undocumented Immigrants in Detroit: The Untold Story**

Thursday, April 1st, 2021, 12:00 pm-2:00 pm

Join URL: <https://umich.zoom.us/j/98088926254>**Storytelling for Social Justice**

Thursday, April 8th, 12:00 pm-2:00 pm

Join URL: <https://umich.zoom.us/j/99312426479>**Significance**

- Social workers must know how to respond to individuals, communities, and organizations in times of crisis.
- Social workers should be able to evaluate their clients and contacts in context of the social and policy arenas in which they exist.
- Social workers must be aware of movements and calls for increased social justice and be adaptive of their social work practice.

## Competencies

Social Work curriculum follows the competency based education framework adopted by the Council on Social Work Education. This course engages the following competencies:

- Competency 2: Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice
- Competency 3: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice
- Competency 4: Engage In Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice

## Evaluation:

A satisfactory grade requires participation in all virtual sessions (live or recorded), active participation in CANVAS discussion boards and completion of initial and final essays.

## Grading:

This course is offered Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory.

## Eligibility:

This course is eligible for credit towards the MSW program and CASC undergraduate minor.

## Assignments & Attendance:

1) A pre-series synchronous virtual discussion will take place prior to the start of the virtual discussion series, aimed to build a sense of community between students, and to elicit discussion on the role of social workers in communities and movements for social change. Students will discuss the use and application of social work practice and tools in community change, our role in times of crisis and social movements for change, and their own advocacy experience.

2) Students are required to attend all live ENGAGE virtual discussions (see schedule below). If unable to attend a virtual discussion, students should contact the course instructor for permission to watch the recorded session.

3) Following each synchronous virtual discussion (see schedule below), students will be required to participate in a 30 minute immediate debrief session on the discussion. This conversation will highlight social work skills/themes that were shared, answer follow-up questions, and share information on how to get involved in the work discussed.

4) Asynchronous readings (1-2 per session) will be assigned prior to each virtual discussion pertaining to the upcoming session topic. Readings may consist of news articles, journal articles, blog posts, policy papers, etc.

5) Following each virtual discussion, a discussion prompt will be posted to Canvas aimed at praxis and application of the social work skills/tools highlighted in the session. Students will submit either a written or recorded response.

6) Mid-semester, a synchronous virtual workshop will be held for all participants to discuss how the series has informed their understanding of social work practice in social change movements, whether they are or have become involved in any of the topics/issues discussed, and how they have applied lessons and skills learned in their own work. **This session has been scheduled to take place on Thursday, February 25th, 12-1:30 pm. This was a previously scheduled ENGAGE session that has now been canceled.**

7) At the end of the semester, students will submit a 2-page double spaced reflection on how the series has furthered their understanding of social justice and equity, the application of social work skills/theory in movements for social change, and how it has shaped their own interests as future professional social workers.

### 3. ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

#### ***Proper use of names and pronouns:***

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All students will be referred to by the names and pronouns they use (e.g. she, they, ze, he). If you have a name that differs from the one that appears on the roster, please inform the instructor before the second class period so that they use your correct name and pronouns. [Students can designate their personal pronouns on the class roster via Wolverine Access: Student Business > Campus Personal Information > Gender Identity.](#)

There are two inclusive restrooms in the SSW building: room 1784 (1st floor, near Registrar's Office) and B833T (Lower Level). [Click here for the Spectrum Center's map of gender inclusive restrooms on campus.](#)

## Accommodations for students with disabilities:

If you are in need of an accommodation for a disability, please let me know at your earliest convenience. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such. [Additional information about accommodations for students with disabilities, as well as a list of appropriate accommodation forms, is available here.](#)

Please present the appropriate paperwork at least two weeks prior to the need for the accommodation (test, project, etc.).

*For more information, contact:*

Services for Students with Disabilities G-664 Haven Hall | 505 South State St. (734) 763-3000 | [ssdoffice@umich.edu](mailto:ssdoffice@umich.edu)

## Writing skills and expectations:

Strong writing and communication skills are essential to students' academic success and professional career. The Writing Coordinator for the School of Social Work is open to meeting with students during any phase of the writing process. The Writing Coordinator's office is housed within the Career Services Office. The Career Services Office also offers workshops, resources and individual assistance to help improve skills and confidence in written communication.

*For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact:*

[SSW Writing Assistance](#)  
[Career Services](#) (Room 1696; (734) 763-6259; [ssw-cso@umich.edu](mailto:ssw-cso@umich.edu))

*APA formatting:*

Any social work assignments presented as professional papers or presentations should utilize APA formatting. Review the [MLibrary APA Citation Guide](#) as needed. [The Purdue Owl website is another helpful resource for assistance with APA formatting.](#)

## Academic integrity and plagiarism:

Plagiarism is prohibited in any academic writing at the University of Michigan. [More information on academic integrity policies can be found in the MSW Student Guide.](#) 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

- Religious/spiritual observances
- Military deployment

## COVID-19 Statement

For the safety of all students, faculty, and staff on campus, it is important for each of us to be mindful of safety measures that have been put in place for our protection. By returning to campus, you have acknowledged your responsibility for protecting the collective health of our community. Your participation in this course on an in-person/hybrid basis is conditional upon your adherence to all safety measures mandated by the state of Michigan and the University, including maintaining physical distancing of six feet from others, and properly wearing a face covering in class. Other applicable safety measures may be described in the [Wolverine Culture of Care](#) and the [University's Face Covering Policy for COVID-19](#). Your ability to participate in this course in-person/hybrid may be impacted by failure to comply with campus safety measures. Individuals seeking to request an accommodation related to the face covering requirement under the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the [Office for Institutional Equity](#). If you are unable or unwilling to adhere to these safety measures while in a face-to-face class setting, you will be required to participate on a remote basis. I also encourage you to review the [Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) and the [COVID-related Addendum to the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#).

## Health-Related Class Absences

Please evaluate your own health status regularly and refrain from attending class and coming to campus if you are ill. You are encouraged to seek appropriate medical attention for treatment. School of Social Work students who miss class due to illness of any kind will be given opportunities to access course materials online or provided with alternative learning opportunities. Please notify me by email about your absence as soon as practical, so that I can make accommodations.

## Recording Class

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.