

SOCIAL JUSTICE LEADERSHIP SERIES



“Be The Change You Wish To See In The World” Mahatma Gandhi

Social Justice Leadership Series: Race and Racism in America

Learning to be an active participant in a democracy means much more than learning to vote or being educated so the right decisions are made. Democracy prevails in everyday life. Voting is an important civic obligation. But what about the “civil” aspects of living in a democracy? For true democracy to flourish, there must also be social justice, because democracy cannot survive without it. Consequently, higher education can play a significant role in educating and enlightening students and citizens to engage in the ongoing work of strengthening our great experiment in democracy.

The Social Justice Leadership Series will strive to foster a sense of lifelong vigilance that equips participants to effect social change through community engagement and civic responsibility.

Learning Outcomes

- The Social Justice Leadership Series prompts participants to think critically about the historical context of social justice issues while focusing on current social, political and economic justice challenges and the interdisciplinary thought and leadership skills necessary for meeting such challenges.
- The Social Justice Lecture Series serves as a platform for further dialogue within our community, through related community education courses, lectures, conferences, and symposia activities related to current local, regional and national social justice issues and initiatives.
- The Social Justice Leadership Series seeks to prepare students and communities for participation in a multicultural, multiethnic, multi-religious, and a global society and achieve a deeper understanding of the role of social justice in defending democracy and ensuring equity.



“If You Want Peace, Work for Justice” Pope Paul VI

Social Justice Leadership Series

The Social Justice Series is an annual series of community education courses and events focused on a specific social justice related theme. Our goals are to raise awareness, educate, and engage through social justice education and programming. The theme for our first series is Race and Racism in America.



Social Justice Leadership Series: Race and Racism in America

Racism comes in many forms and touches various aspects of people's lives. Sometimes racism stimulates massive street protests of police killings of unarmed citizens of Color, or it shows up as a prison system that incarcerates African Americans at nearly six times the rate of Whites, or in the hiring practices where Johnny is called back for a job interview but not Jamal, or as a domestic terrorist who kills nine unarmed black men and woman attending a pray meeting. Sadly, these incidences are not new.

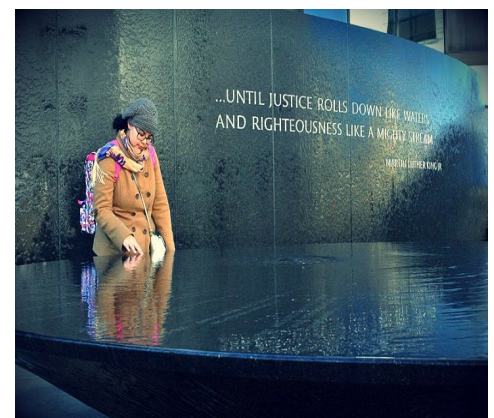
The ideas, values, behaviors and institutions that enlivened these events and practices didn't just materialize overnight. There is a long history of racial terror, demonizing and diminishing blackness, and policing and criminalizing black bodies. Essentially, there is a lineage that we are seeing manifested today. Knowing this and internalizing that knowledge is critical to doing something about it in the present.

The Social Justice Leadership Series: Race and Racism in America is informed by the project [#CharlestonSyllabus](#), the creation of Chad Williams, Professor of African American Studies at Brandeis University. The series provides the following broad overview of African American history and experience beginning with the ECCE event:

What is Social Justice?

Social justice is based upon the value that access, fairness, honesty, integrity, equity and impartiality should resonate throughout every institution within a civil and democratic society.

The Social Justice Leadership Series explores ideals and practices of democracy and justice through interdisciplinary social and historical studies.



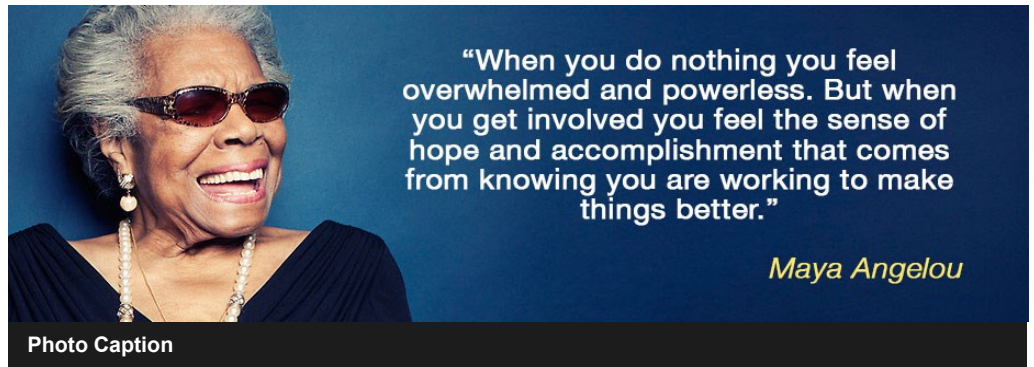
"No one is born hating another person because of the color of his or her skin, or background or his or her religion. People learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite"

Nelson Mandela

ECCE Events

The Engaged Citizenship Common Experience (ECCE) Speaker Series aims to foster the appreciation for and practice of diversity and the active effort to make a difference in the world.

The ECCE Speaker Series is also a venue for the UIS community to reach out and engage with its larger community and for the public to engage with UIS.



“When you do nothing you feel overwhelmed and powerless. But when you get involved you feel the sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better.”

Maya Angelou

Photo Caption

ECCE Event: The Charleston Massacre and the History of Racial Violence in America

This event will bring together a panel of experts to explore the historical, social and political lineage that nurtures the current racist culture and climate that enabled the Charleston shootings.

Panel Moderator:

Ty Dooley, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, University of Illinois - Springfield

Panelists:

Sundiata Keita Cha-Jua, Ph.D., Associate Professor in the Department of History, University of Illinois – Champaign

Chad Williams, Ph.D., Associate Professor of African & Afro-American Studies, Brandeis University, Charleston, S.C.

Ashley Howard, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Loyola University of New Orleans

Panel Objectives:

1. The panel discussion will engage students in examining the complexities of race relations in America and help them identify how the long history of racial violence, policing and criminalizing black people, resurgence of white supremacy, and the history of the Confederate flag and how this history, systems and practices contributed to the Charleston shooting.
2. The panel discussion will help students understand the convergence of factors and conditions over time that results in the current racial climate in the US.
3. The panel discussion will help students understand their role as citizens in addressing racial intolerance in their communities.

Event Date: September 8, 2015 at 6:00pm

Location: Brookens Auditorium

Cost: Free

Community Education Courses

Session 1: From Slavery to the Charleston Massacre: Racism and Racial Violence in America

Racism has plagued the history of America, coming in many forms including segregation, intolerance, prejudice, discrimination, and violence. This course will examine the violent and blatant forms of American racism through the institution of slavery, the system of Jim Crow, the practice of lynching and race riots. Students will analyze and explore the events surrounding the practice of lynching and race riots through historical, cultural, social, and literary contexts. This course will evoke critical thinking from students as they study how these violent acts preserved, perpetuated, disseminated, and maintained racism throughout American culture.

Instructor: TBA

Date: Tuesday, January 19, 2016

Time: 6:00pm—8:00pm (2 hours)

Location: Face to Face and Online Webinar

Cost: \$125

Session 2: The Black Church and the History of Black Resistance

Since the emergence of black churches among free black populations living in cities throughout the U.S. in the late 18th century, the black church has been a historic symbol of black resistance to slavery and racism, serving as a centralizing force of spiritual support, educational opportunity, economic development, political activism and social justice. For white supremacists African American places of worship are a citadel of resistance to White supremacy and as such black churches have been prime targets of racial violence across time.

Through the examination of historical and contemporary scholarship on the Black church, this course will explore the role of Black churches in black resistance from slavery to the Charleston Massacre.

Instructor: TBA

Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Time: 6:00pm—8:00pm (2 hours)

Location: Face to Face and Online Webinar

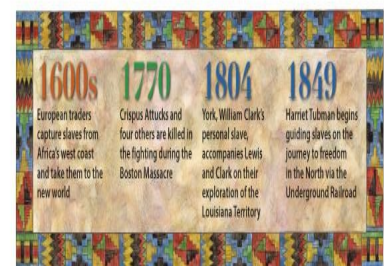
Cost: \$125

Community Education Course Registration

To register online go to:

If you have any questions regarding any of the events please email
Lorena Johnson at
ljohn04s@uis.edu

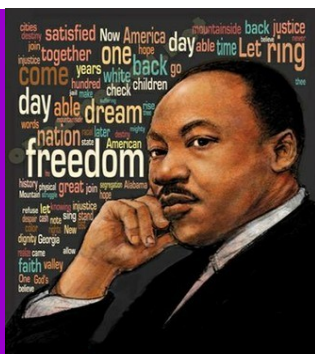
Visit us on the web at
www.illaps@uis.edu



Community Education

Community Education classes are a gateway to lifelong learning. It offers a wide variety of courses and workshops.

For those seeking a forum for learning beyond what is available in more formal degree or certificate programs Community Education classes may be the avenue to continue learning.



“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

Community Education Courses

Session 3: The History of Race and Institutional Racism in America: From Slavery to the Present

For some racism is viewed and interpreted through disparate and fragmented pieces often congealing briefing as a result of a series of news worthy events and/or sound bites. And as such, it is easily set aside, selectively remembered, dismissed entirely, and/or forgotten all together. We have been taught not to see racism as a pattern, or a system, or a structure, but as a mental quirk, as a psychological flaw, or as an individual spewing benign, but politically incorrect statements. But race and racism are integral and inescapable parts of our American culture and history.

In this course students will examine the history and construction of race and structural racism and its impact and relationship to our social, political and economic systems.

Instructor: TBA

Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2016

Time: 6:00pm—8:00pm (2 hours)

Location: Face to Face and Online Webinar

Cost: \$125



Session 4: Fighting Racism in America

Leadership can play a critical role in either contributing to racial justice or reinforcing prevailing patterns of racial inequality and exclusion. In an ever-changing multicultural society, filled with cultural complexities, the role that leadership plays requires continual re-examination and reshaping to contribute in constructive ways to dismantling institutional racism in America today.

In this course participants will learn effective methods and strategies for dismantling structural and institutional racism in the workplace and in their communities.

Instructor: TBA

Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Time: 6:00pm—8:00pm (2 hours)

Location: Face to Face and Online Webinar

Cost: \$125

Book Club

In today's turbulent and rapidly changing world, we are confronted with a constant blur of information and ideas. Reading books provided both the opportunity to low down and reflect on our lives, and to think about the larger world and enable us to consider ourselves in the context of generations before us and cultures beyond our borders. That opportunity for reflection and connection is one of the greatest role books can play in life.

The Book Club creates a forum in which students, alums, and friends of UIS gather to talk about books that are culturally enlightening and thought-provoking, creating the opportunity to delve into a variety of cultural, political, and social issues related to the American experience.



Book Club Registration

Give us a call for more To register online go to:

If you have any questions regarding any of the events please email:

Lorena Johnson at ljohn04s@uis.edu

Visit us on the web at www.illaps@uis.edu



Book Club Picks: *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Go Set a Watchman*
by Harper Lee

To Kill a Mockingbird is an American classic. It's an inspiring story about standing up to injustice even if doing so is difficult and unpopular; an accessible coming-of-age tale; and a convenient way to teach high school English students about the Jim Crow South. It's also the only novel that its author, Harper Lee, had ever published — until a sudden announcement in February 2015 heralded the publication of *Go Set a Watchman*, a new Lee work featuring the same characters as *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Originally written in the mid-1950s, *Go Set a Watchman* was the novel Harper Lee first submitted to her publishers before *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

After reading *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Go Set a Watchman*, join us for the first ILLAPS Book Club group discussion to better understand how these two works relate and what they tell us about race and race relations in America today.

Instructor: Pauline Kayes, Professor Emeritus, Parkland College

Dates: October 14, 21, and 28, 2015

Time: 6:00pm—8:00pm (2 hours)

Location: Face to Face and Webinar

Cost: \$75

Book Club Pick: *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Ta-Nehisi Coates' *Between the World and Me* has rocketed to the top of the best-sellers list. In the form of an autobiographical letter to his son, Coates warns his son about what it takes to survive in a society riven by the oppression of Black people. It is a must-read at this particular moment when foundational questions about the horrific history and present brutal reality of Black people in America are sharply posed.

After reading *Between the World and Me* join us for our second IPS Book Club Pick group discussion.

Instructor: TBA

Dates: February 17 and 24, 2016

Time: 6:00pm—8:00pm (2 hours)

Location: Face to Face and Webinar

Cost: \$75

Five Reasons to Join A Book Clubs

1. You meet interesting people.
2. You read things that you wouldn't otherwise read.
3. Some books need to be discussed.
4. Sometimes it's fun just to chat.

