

Midstate College
411 West Northmoor Road
Peoria, Illinois 61614
(309) 692.4092 (800) 251.4299
Spring 2018

Course Number and Name: LSJ 310 – Theories of Justice and Social Change (Justice & Equality)

Credit Hours: 4 Quarter Credit Hours

Method of Delivery: eLearning

Course Description: This course provides analysis of gender, race, class, and related inequalities in the context of political economy in the United States and explores general theories of social change, such as social evolutionism and historical materialism, and the relationship between social change and the pursuit of justice. The starting point is unjust social structures and processes, leading into analysis of how social change occurs, especially through social movements and the strategies for reducing these injustices.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of LSJ 110 (Introduction to Social Justice) or Permission from Department Director.

Text: *Exploring Social Change: America and the World*, 6th Edition
(ISBN-10: 0205748082, ISBN-13: 9780205748082)

Author: Harper, Charles L.(Creighton Univ.) & Leicht, Kevin T. (The University of Iowa)

Publisher: Prentice Hall (2011)

Supplement: *Justice: What's The Right Thing To Do?*
Sandel, Michael J.
(ISBN: 9780374532505)
Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York, NY (2009)

Other Readings: Other readings as assigned and available on JOULE

Materials needed for this course: The minimum system requirements to complete an eLearning course at Midstate College.

Topics: The following topics will be covered in this course:

1. Theories of Justice
2. Practical analysis of marginalized populations in historical and current social structures
3. Social change and social movement analysis

Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify and describe the various historical and contemporary social changes reviewed in the context of the social justice theories studied.
2. Analyze the roots of structural inequality and marginalization based on social characteristics including gender, race, and class.

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3. Understand the theories of justice and the basic forms of justice as they relate to conflict resolution.
4. Examine the nature of justice and social change across historical periods and cultural contexts.
5. Think critically about relationships among social structures and the institutionalization of the ideals of justice as they are embedded in modern societies.

Midstate College Grading Scale:

| | |
|------------|---|
| 100 – 90 = | A |
| 89 - 80 = | B |
| 79 - 70 = | C |
| 69 - 60 = | D |
| 59 - 00 = | F |

*All students must have a 70% or better to pass this course.

Midstate Plagiarism Policy: Plagiarism is using another person’s words, either by paraphrase or direct quotation, without giving credit to the author(s). Plagiarism can also consist of cutting and pasting material from electronic sources by submitting all or a portion of work for assignment credit. This includes papers, computer programs, music, sculptures, paintings, photographs, etc. authored by another person without explicitly citing the original source(s). These actions violate the trust and honesty expected in academic work. Plagiarism is strictly against the academic policy of Midstate College. Its seriousness requires a measured, forceful response which includes consequences for inappropriate and/or no citation.

In courses containing writing assignments, the College promotes the use of an electronic resource which compares the student’s writing against previously submitted papers, journals, periodicals, books, and web pages. Students and instructors can use this service to reduce the incidence of plagiarism. This electronic resource has been found to conform to legal requirements for fair use and student confidentiality. It is able to provide a report to the student indicating the parts of the assignment that match.

In addition to the plagiarism policy, for any written assignment in this course, Turnitin will also indicate originality of the student’s work. **No written assignment should be more than 25% similar** to other works, which means that students are to paraphrase as much as possible instead of using direct quotations from **any** source!! You must demonstrate that you comprehend the material and can put it in your own words! Assignments submitted that are more than 25% similar to other works will be graded down, and any assignment **50% similar** or more to other works will be given a **ZERO**.

Student Success: The Office of Student Success is available to students seeking tutoring for individual classes or who need assistance with writing assignments. Information is also available

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on test taking techniques, how to take notes, developing good study skills, etc. Contact Student Success in Room 110 (in person); (309) 692-4092, extension 1100 (phone); studentsuccess@midstate.edu (email).

Assessment Portfolio Reminder: Students (depending on your program major) may be required to prepare an assessment portfolio for graduation. Keep a copy of this syllabus in the portfolio and consult your Program Director to determine if any assignments from this course should be placed in the assessment portfolio.

Instructor Information:

Instructor's Name: Rebecca Tuxhorn

Midstate College Phone: (309) 692-4092

Midstate College Fax: (309)-692-3893

Instructor's email: bjtuxhorn@midstate.edu

Office Hours: Weekly online office hours are not scheduled, but instructor will work with student's schedules to arrange online meetings when needed, at student's request

Participation Requirements You **will be required** to participate in the group discussion forum *substantively at least three times* each week in several discussion forum/homework assignments relating to the subject materials for the week. Discussions will take place in the online discussion forum as assigned by the faculty member in the course syllabus. You will read, analyze, and respond to questions and comments from the instructor and fellow students.

When applicable, include page numbers from assigned readings or other sources to cite supporting documentation. All posts should advance the discussion and deepen academic inquiry.

PLEASE NOTE: Substantive participation requires original thought and application to the threads and student posts. Participation in the "General Discussion" thread each week – which generally is a place for students and the instructor to 'chat,' not engage in class material – **does not** count toward substantive participation. Congratulatory, "I agree," and/or praising sentences – while encouraged – do not count toward substantive participation either.

Due to the structure of this course based on student-centered learning with a large emphasis on group discussion, each student's participation is vital for the success of the course for all.

Methods of evaluating student performance: Please see "Instructor Final Grade Determination" below for more information.

Attendance Policy: eLearning students must login and participate at least once a week to be counted present for the week (participation is strongly recommended and essential for passing

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this course). You must post a gradable assignment each week to be counted as “Present” for the week.

Instructors Grading Scale: The following assignments and activities are outlines in a week-by-week format. All assignments (unless specified otherwise) are due by the date identified by the instructor and they need to be posted to the location specified by the faculty member in the syllabus. The following schedule indicates the days of the week to be followed in this module.

| | |
|-------|-----------|
| Day 1 | Monday |
| Day 2 | Tuesday |
| Day 3 | Wednesday |
| Day 4 | Thursday |
| Day 5 | Friday |
| Day 6 | Saturday |
| Day 7 | Sunday |

Instructor Final Grade Determination: Your final grade in this course will be based on **550** points: There will be two Reaction Assignments, a Book Review, an Article Review, and a Final Project assignment due during the semester as indicated on the class schedule. Guidelines and details for all writing assignments will be posted on JOULE as they become due. Students will be expected to participate in group discussions having demonstrated they have read the material assigned. Points will be deducted at my discretion if a student does not demonstrate knowledge of the assigned material and/or does not contribute during group discussions. We will be engaging in group discussions over our textbook material, special readings, and any documentaries that we view throughout the term. Grading points are as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Book Review: | 100 points |
| 2. Article Review: | 50 points |
| 3. Reaction assignments: | 100 points (50 points each x 2) |
| 4. Final project: | 200 points |
| 5. Group participation | <u>100 points</u> |
| 6. TOTAL POINTS | 550 points |

*All students must have a 70% or better to pass this course.

Course Policies and Procedures:

1. **eLearning Sessions:** In accordance with Midstate College policies, class material will be made available on Monday at 12:00 p.m. of that week (see dates in the Course Outline below) and will remain available until the following Monday until 8:00 a.m. This allows

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students one week to access the lecture and related material for that week's session and participate in the mandatory discussion boards.

2. **Late Policy:** All work must be submitted on time (by the assignment due date). Late work will not be accepted **unless** arrangements have been made with the instructor (arrangements must be made **prior to** the assignment due date). Approval for accepting late work is at the discretion of the instructor and will **only** be granted for extenuating circumstances. If late work is accepted, late penalties will apply at the discretion of the instructor.
3. **Reaction assignments, Article review, Book review, and Final Project:** These assignments will supplement the textbook, special readings, and lectures to further your understanding and application of social justice and social change theories in accordance with the course's learning objectives. Writing assignments will be turned in online via Assignment links available on JOULE depending on the due date. While this is not a composition course, I **will be** counting off for grammar and spelling errors, run-on sentences, and other writing errors. I expect good quality papers!
4. All work must be completed by **Friday, May 18th, 2018 (11:59 PM)**.
5. Academic dishonesty (cheating / plagiarism) in any form **will not** be tolerated in this course and may result in the dismissal/suspension from the course/program/college. Do your own work!! Not knowing the rules of plagiarism is not a valid defense. Check with me if you are not clear on what constitutes plagiarism.
6. This is a tentative syllabus and outline and is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Students will receive timely notice of all such changes via announcements made online in Joule and via email.

Theories of Justice and Social Change – LSJ 310
Winter Term 2015
Course Outline

This Outline is a guideline that may change as necessary as the quarter/term progresses. However, exams WILL BE on the given dates and will include questions on all information covered to that point.

Week 1:

1. Pretest
2. Introduction to Theories of Justice and Social Change
3. Syllabus Review/Course Goals
4. By Way of Introduction (Chapter 1- Harper & Leicht)
5. The Causes and Patterns of Change (Chapter 2 – Harper & Leicht)
6. Doing the Right Thing (Chapter 1 – Sandel)

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Topics Covered in Week 1:

1. Theories of Justice
2. Practical analysis of marginalized populations in historical and current social structures
3. Social change and social movement analysis

Objectives Covered in Week 1:

1. Identify and describe the various historical and contemporary social changes reviewed in the context of the social justice theories studied.
3. Understand the theories of justice and the basic forms of justice as they relate to conflict resolution.

Week 2:

1. Social Theory and Social Change (Chapter 3 – Harper & Leicht)
2. The Greatest Happiness Principle (Chapter 2 – Sandel)
3. Documentary: Poor Kids (2017)

Topics Covered in Week 2:

1. Theories of Justice
2. Practical analysis of marginalized populations in historical and current social structures

Objectives Covered in Week 2:

2. Analyze the roots of structural inequality and marginalization based on social characteristics including gender, race, and class.
3. Understand the theories of justice and the basic forms of justice as they relate to conflict resolution.

Week 3:

1. American Social Trends (Chapter 4 – Harper & Leicht)
2. Do We Own Ourselves? (Chapter 3 – Sandel)
3. **Reaction Writing Assignment #1 due**

Topics Covered in Week 3:

1. Theories of Justice
2. Practical analysis of marginalized populations in historical and current social structures
3. Social change and social movement analysis

Objectives Covered in Week 3:

3. Understand the theories of justice and the basic forms of justice as they relate to conflict resolution.
4. Examine the nature of justice and social change across historical periods and cultural contexts.

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5. Think critically about relationships among social structures and the institutionalization of the ideals of justice as they are embedded in modern societies.

Week 4:

1. Change in the Settings of Everyday Life: Populations, Families, and Work (Chapter 5 – Harper & Leicht)
2. Economics, Politics, and the American Prospect (Chapter 6 – Harper & Leicht)

Topics Covered in Week 4:

1. Theories of Justice
2. Practical analysis of marginalized populations in historical and current social structures
3. Social change and social movement analysis

Objectives Covered in Week 4:

2. Analyze the roots of structural inequality and marginalization based on social characteristics including gender, race, and class.
3. Understand the theories of justice and the basic forms of justice as they relate to conflict resolution.
4. Examine the nature of justice and social change across cultural contexts.

Week 5:

1. Social Movements (Chapter 7 – Harper & Leicht)
2. Documentary: Inside Job (2010)

Topics Covered in Week 5:

1. Theories of Justice
2. Practical analysis of marginalized populations in historical and current social structures
3. Social change and social movement analysis

Objectives Covered in Week 5:

3. Understand the theories of justice and the basic forms of justice as they relate to conflict resolution.
4. Examine the nature of justice and social change across historical periods and cultural contexts.
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Week 6:

1. Hired Help (Chapter 4 – Sandel)
2. **Article Review Assignment due**

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Topics Covered in Week 6:

1. Theories of Justice
2. Practical analysis of marginalized populations in historical and current social structures
3. Social change and social movement analysis

Objectives Covered in Week 6:

3. Understand the theories of justice and the basic forms of justice as they relate to conflict resolution.
4. Examine the nature of justice and social change across historical periods and cultural contexts.
5. Think critically about relationships among social structures and the institutionalization of the ideals of justice as they are embedded in modern societies.

Week 7:

1. American Reform Movements and Social Change (Chapter 8 – Harper & Leicht)
2. What Matters is the Motive (Chapter 5 – Sandel)
3. The Case for Equality (Chapter 6 – Sandel)

Topics Covered in Week 7:

1. Theories of Justice
2. Practical analysis of marginalized populations in historical and current social structures
3. Social change and social movement analysis

Objectives Covered in Week 7:

1. Identify and describe the various historical and contemporary social changes reviewed in the context of the social justice theories studied.
4. Examine the nature of justice and social change across historical periods and cultural contexts.
5. Think critically about relationships among social structures and the institutionalization of the ideals of justice as they are embedded in modern societies.

Week 8:

1. Revolutions (Chapter 9 – Harper & Leicht)
2. Technology, Innovation, and Networks (Chapter 10 – Harper & Leicht)
- 3. Reaction Writing Assignment #2 due**

Topics Covered in Week 8:

1. Theories of Justice
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3. Social change and social movement analysis

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Objectives Covered in Week 8:

1. Identify and describe the various historical and contemporary social changes reviewed in the context of the social justice theories studied.
2. Analyze the roots of structural inequality and marginalization based on social characteristics including gender, race, and class.
3. Understand the theories of justice and the basic forms of justice as they relate to conflict resolution.

Week 9:

1. Creating Change (Chapter 11 – Harper & Leicht)
2. Arguing Affirmative Action (Chapter 7 –Sandel)
3. Who Deserves What? (Chapter 8 – Sandel)

Topics Covered in Week 9:

1. Theories of Justice
2. Practical analysis of marginalized populations in historical and current social structures
3. Social change and social movement analysis

Objectives Covered in Week 9:

4. Examine the nature of justice and social change across historical periods and cultural contexts.
5. Think critically about relationships among social structures and the institutionalization of the ideals of justice as they are embedded in modern societies.

Week 10:

1. The Emerging Global System: Development and Globalization (Chapter 12 – Harper & Leicht)
2. What Do We Owe One Another? (Chapter 9 – Sandel)
3. Justice and the Common Good (Chapter 10 – Sandel)

Topics Covered in Week 10:

1. Theories of Justice
2. Practical analysis of marginalized populations in historical and current social structures
3. Social change and social movement analysis

Objectives Covered in Week 10:

1. Identify and describe the various historical and contemporary social changes reviewed in the context of the social justice theories studied.
3. Understand the theories of justice and the basic forms of justice as they relate to conflict resolution.

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Week 11:

1. Society, Environment, and Change (Chapter 13 – Harper & Leicht)
2. World Futures (Chapter 14 – Harper & Leicht)
3. Post test
4. **Book Review Due**

Topics Covered in Week 11:

1. Theories of Justice
2. Practical analysis of marginalized populations in historical and current social structures
3. Social change and social movement analysis

Objectives Covered in Week 11:

1. Be able to explain and understand the various historical and contemporary social changes reviewed in the context of the theories studied as we investigate a variety of theories about the meaning and value of social justice.
2. Analyze the roots of structural inequality and marginalization based on social characteristics including gender, race, and class.
3. Understand the theories of justice and the basic forms of justice, such as retributive and restorative justice, as well as distributive and social justice, as they relate to conflict resolution.
4. Examine the nature of justice and social change across cultural contexts.
5. Think critically about relationships among social structures and the institutionalization of the ideals of justice as they are embedded in modern societies.

Week 12:

1. **Final Project due** (by 5/18 at 11:59PM)

Topics Covered in Week 12:

1. Theories of Justice
2. Practical analysis of marginalized populations in historical and current social structures
3. Social change and social movement analysis

Objectives Covered in Week 12:

1. Identify and describe the various historical and contemporary social changes reviewed in the context of the social justice theories studied.
2. Analyze the roots of structural inequality and marginalization based on social characteristics including gender, race, and class.

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