



Community Education Fall 2023

Social Justice in the Media

Instructor: Ronnie Mars

Phone: 843.276.5096

E-Mail: rmars@clark.edu or imagemaker71@outlook.com

Course Description: Social justice is the view that everyone deserves equal economic, political and human rights and opportunities. *Social justice* is fairness as it manifests in society. That includes fairness in healthcare, employment, housing, and more. In a socially-just society, human rights are respected, and discrimination is not allowed to flourish.

Learning Outcomes: *As a result of taking this course, students will:*

1. Discover stories of people's struggle for human rights, and the capacity to help students develop a critical analysis of United States history and strategies for change.
2. Explore how Roe v. Wade, a Supreme Court landmark decision in 1973 was overturned in 2022.
3. Understand how the principles of social justice (human rights, access, participation, and equity) become a reality. Social justice can't be achieved without these four principles.
4. Examine the events leading up to the Status of Affirmative Action.

Class Schedule: Each week I will examine major events within Social Justice and how the media portrayed it.

Week One: The Tulsa Race Massacre, The Attica Prison Riot, Gerrymandering and, Cesar Chavez

Tulsa Race Massacre: Also known as the Black Wall Street massacre, was a two-day-long white supremacist terrorist massacre that took place between May 31 and June 1, 1921, when mobs of white residents attacked black residents and destroyed homes and businesses of the Greenwood District in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Attica Prison Riot: In 1971, the Attica State Correctional Facility was overcrowded and the conditions for prisoners were inhumane. The prisoners took over the facility and kept 40 guards as hostages. After four days of negotiations, state troopers and correctional officers took the prison back by force, killing ten hostages and twenty-nine inmates, and brutalized other inmates they had recaptured.

Gerrymandering – Alabama Redistricting Map: Alabama lawmakers voted on redistricting map despite Supreme Court ruling. The state refused to create a second majority-Black congressional district, a move that could defy a recent order from the U.S. Supreme Court to give minority voters a greater voice and trigger a renewed battle over the state's political map.

Cesar Chavez: Cesar Chavez was a civil rights, Latino and farm labor leader; a community organizer and social entrepreneur; a champion of militant nonviolent social change; and a crusader for the environment and consumer rights.

Week Two: Ageism, Affirmative Action: College Admissions, Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission, and Stand Your Ground Law (Trayvon Martin)

Ageism: Ageism in the workplace occurs when companies, managers or co-workers present negative attitudes towards an individual because of their age. Whether this means the employee is stereotyped as someone who can't complete their job anymore because they are aging, or perhaps they are being phased out of the company because a younger generation is thought to have a better understanding of new technology, like AI, or the current workplace ecosystem.

Affirmative Action- College Admissions: In a historic decision, the Supreme Court severely limited, if not effectively ended, the use of affirmative action in college admissions. By a vote of 6-3, the justices ruled that the admissions programs used by the University of North Carolina and Harvard College violate the Constitution's equal protection clause, which bars racial discrimination by government entities.

Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission: David Mullins and Charlie Craig visited Masterpiece Cakeshop in July 2012 to order a cake for their upcoming wedding reception. But bakery owner Jack Phillips informed them that the bakery wouldn't sell wedding cakes to same-sex couples.

Stand Your Ground Law: A stand-your-ground law, sometimes called a "line in the sand" or "no duty to retreat" law, provides that people may use deadly force when they reasonably believe it to be necessary to defend against certain violent crimes (right of self-defense).

Week 3 – Reproductive Rights (Roe v. Wade), 2005 Hurricane Katrina, Police Brutality, and Human Trafficking

Reproductive Rights (Roe v. Wade): A 1973 landmark decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in which the Court ruled that the Constitution of the United States generally protected a right to have an abortion. The Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in 2022. Some state constitutions, however, independently protect abortion rights.

2005 Hurricane Katrina: Millions of people were left homeless along the Gulf Coast and in New Orleans. Hurricane Katrina caused approximately \$161 billion in damage and is the costliest hurricane on record.

Police Brutality: The excessive and often illegal use of force against civilians by U.S. police officers have ranged from assault and battery to mayhem, torture, and murder.

Human Trafficking: Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act.

Week 4 - Disability Discrimination in the Workplace, Workers' Rights, Liberty and Technology, and Due Process and Justice

Disability Discrimination in the Workplace: A couple decades have gone by since the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed, which protects people with mental or physical impairment. Workplaces have improved thanks to additions like wheelchair ramps, automatic doors and parking spaces for the handicapped.

Workers' Rights: The ACLU has been at the forefront of workers' rights for a century, fighting for the rights of workers to speak out against abuse and exploitation, and to be free from employer retaliation when they do

Liberty and Technology: Technological innovation has long outpaced privacy protections. Both government and private companies are able to collect details about our private lives – what we say, what we believe, where we go, who we are with – often without our consent or even our knowledge.

Due Process and Justice: Due process of law is application by state of all legal rules and principles pertaining to the case so all legal rights that are owed to the person are respected. Due process balances the power of law of the land and protects the individual person from it.

Week 5 - Immigrants' Rights, Weight Bias, Pregnancy Discrimination, and Freedom of Speech and Religion

Immigrants' Rights: Threats to immigrants have increased in recent years because of the cruel deportation agenda of the Trump administration. The NYCLU works in coalition with immigrants' rights advocates to aggressively challenge unlawful practices and confront hate and xenophobia.

Weight Bias: Weight bias is *negative attitudes, beliefs, judgments, stereotypes, and discriminatory acts aimed at individuals simply because of their weight.*

Pregnancy Discrimination: The Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 prohibits discrimination on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions.

Freedom of Speech and Religion: The freedom of expression, the freedom of the press, and the freedom of religion -- supported by the strict separation of church and state -- are protected by the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights and are guaranteed to all Americans.

TO Register

<https://www.campusce.net/clark/course/course.aspx?C=5522&pc=4&mc=316&sc=0> or call 360.992.2939

Reading List: will be sent separately each week

Class Evaluation: Class evaluations are sent by email. Sometimes the email will be delivered to your "junk mail," but we can assure you it's from Clark College only. Your responses are completely anonymous. If you do not see your evaluation immediately after class, look in your junk mail and send it to your email address. If you do not receive an evaluation please email Continuingeducation@clark.edu or call 360.992.2939.

Inclement Weather: Include inclement weather in fall and winter only

If the College cancels due to icy conditions you can find this on the college website www.clark.edu ~ If Community Education concludes that the weather is too hazardous we may also decide to cancel this class. In that case you will receive both a phone call and email. Make certain that we have your correct contact information by viewing the class roster.

Looking for classes? Visit our Community Education webpage: www.clark.edu/cce/