

 <p>25 THE CENTER FOR JUSTICE & PEACEBUILDING</p>	<p>INTEGRATING EMPATHY AND EQUITY IN WORKING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE PAX 689</p> <p>SPI 2022 Session 3: June 6-10</p> <p><i>Course meeting location and time: TBD</i></p>
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INSTRUCTOR'S INFORMATION:

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

"Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love." ~ Martin Luther King Jr.

This course presupposes that whether engaged in dialogue or activism, effective social change work takes the ability to connect authentically with others; collaborate across differing perspectives; account for social identity and systems of power; and respond to the impacts of interpersonal, systemic, and historical harms. Drawing from participants' life experiences and such models as Nonviolent Communication, Nonviolent Global Resistance, Synergizing Nonviolent Action and Peacebuilding, Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience, and Restorative/Transformative Justice, this interactive course seeks to cultivate ideas and practices for moving conversations, actions, and campaigns past the limitations of both "kumbaya" and "cancel" culture.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

In this course, students will:

1. Understand the dual importance of strong communication and mutual understanding, as well as an awareness of systemic power, to effective social change
2. Explore underlying concepts and practices related to equity and empathy mapped against systems thinking and human neuropsychology
3. Experience equity- and empathy-aligned conversations around difficult topics
4. Learn and practice communication, facilitation, and organizing techniques that bridge dialogue and activism

TEXTS AND OTHER RESOURCES:

If not already familiar, it is recommended that you review the following texts prior to the beginning of the course.

Rosenberg, M. B. (2004). *The Heart of Social Change: How to Make a Difference in Your World*. United States: PuddleDancer Press. ISBN: 9781892005106. Retail price \$5.

Schirch, Lisa and Nadine Bloch (2019). *Synergizing Nonviolent Action and Peacebuilding: An Action Guide*. USIP. <https://www.usip.org/publications/2019/04/snap-synergizing-nonviolent-action-and-peacebuilding>

Additional readings and multimedia resources will be shared on Moodle the week before and during the course.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Monday, June 6 – Introductions, Container Building, and Exploring Dilemmas

- Registration and continental breakfast: 7:30am - 8:30am
- Welcome celebration: 8:30am - 10:00am
- Morning session: 10:00am - 12:00pm
- Lunch: 12:00pm - 1:30pm
- Afternoon session with 15min break: 1:30pm - 5:00pm
- Class ends: 5:00pm

Tuesday, June 7 – Empathy: Concepts, Implications, and Practices

- Morning session starts: 8:30am
- Morning break: 10:00am - 10:30am (in campus center at SPI Information desk)
- Lunch: 12:00pm - 1:30pm
- Afternoon session with 15min break: 1:30pm - 5:00pm
- Class end: 5:00pm (class ends at 4:00pm on the last day of the session)

Wednesday, June 8 – Equity: Concepts, Implications, and Practices

- Morning session starts: 8:30am
- Morning break: 10:00am - 10:30am (in campus center at SPI Information desk)
- Horizons of Change lunch: 12:15pm - 2:30pm
- Afternoon session with 15min break: 1:30pm - 5:00pm
- Class end: 5:00pm

Thursday, June 9 – Key Considerations: Systems and Human Neuropsychology

- Morning session starts: 8:30am
- Morning break: 10:00am - 10:30am (in campus center at SPI Information desk)
- Lunch: 12:00pm - 1:30pm

- Afternoon session with 15min break: 1:30pm - 5:00pm
- Class end: 5:00pm

Friday, June 10 – Application: Skills and Processes

- Morning session starts: 8:30am
- Morning break: 10:00am - 10:30am (in campus center at SPI Information desk)
- Lunch: 12:00pm - 1:30pm
- Afternoon session with 15min break: 1:30pm - 4:00pm
- Class end: 4:00pm

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

Attending and participating in each class session is required for all course participants. Students completing the course for two graduate credits will receive a score based on their class participation and an additional assignment outlined below.

Class Participation (60 points)

This skill-building course relies heavily on everyone’s active and thoughtful participation in activities and discussions that draw on external sources, as well as personal experiences and perspectives. The course brings together individuals who may come at sensitive issues from different life experiences and backgrounds. As such, we will be working to build trust and familiarity with each other. Within this container, be prepared to critically challenge assumptions, bring personal experiences to the learning process, and lean into discomfort with an open, respectful heart. Engaged listening, authentic self-expression, genuine inquiry, self-reflection, integrating theory and practice, building relationships, creative and critical thinking, and punctual and consistent attendance are critical to getting the most out of this course and will be reflected by your participation grade.

Real Life Application (40 points)

This assignment is an open invitation to take what you have learned and apply it intentionally and thoughtfully to a situation of relevance to your social change work. Consider addressing issues of power and equity on your team, building alliances with those who are not typical allies, or developing campaigns that bridge diverse tactics or interests. These examples are by no means exhaustive of the possibilities, so long as you spend at least four cumulative hours on the activity and preparation. Once completed, prepare a at a minimum 1500-word written or 10 minute orally recorded reflection of the experience that describes what you did, how it felt, what you learned, and what confusions, critique, or questions may have emerged. You may work in groups, but please still submit individual reflections.

Due Friday, July 1, 2022.

These are brief descriptions of required graded assignments for the course. More details for each assignment can be found on the “Guidance Notes” that will be provided in class.

SPI ATTENDANCE POLICY:

It is expected that individuals registering for an SPI session will attend the entire course (barring unforeseen travel delays or emergencies). Please contact SPI directly at spi@emu.edu before registering if you know you will have to miss any days of a course. SPI certificates are provided to participants only if they miss no more than one class day unless prior arrangements have been made with the SPI Director. For-credit participants are expected to attend all class sessions unless they are

given permission from the instructor to miss a session. SPI courses rely on active student participation in a learning community. If a participant misses class repeatedly and this disrupts the learning for others, they will be asked to leave the course and no money will be refunded for remaining course time.

GRADING CRITERIA AND OTHER POLICIES:

SPI provides all students taking the course for graduate credit some supplemental information that will serve as a resource after SPI when students are working on course assignments. This includes information on library resources, EMU's academic integrity policy, and guidelines for writing graduate papers, information regarding the grading scale and course deadlines, and then some suggestions we have for you in order to make your experience of taking SPI courses for graduate credit as successful as possible! These [documents](#) are all available online.