

Art & Social Issues (LEAP)
Fall Semester 2024
Section 1: LEAP: 1260- 001 - TuTh / 10:45AM-12:05PM
Section 2: LEAP: 1260- 002 - TuTh / 12:25PM-1:45PM

Instructor: Dr. Joshua Rivkin (he / him)
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Course Description:

The guiding question for our class will be this: How do artists respond to social and political changes and challenges within their communities? To think about this question, we'll begin by exploring pressing social issues within communities, as well as the very idea of what makes a community. We will consider how social and behavioral sciences study and respond to the causes and effects of these issues. At the same time, we'll think about how artists explore concerns that also engage scholars and researchers in psychology, sociology, economics, anthropology, public health, and political science. What are some of the forms artist's use? What are the strengths and limits of fine arts in responding to these issues? How can students, as practitioners and scholars of the fine arts, use social and behavioral sciences in their own practice? Our approach to these questions and issues will be interdisciplinary. Topics such as inequality, urban spaces, race and justice, trauma, identity, technology, as well as others of the students' choosing, will allow us to think deeply about communities, both locally, nationally, and transnationally. We will also be thinking deeply about how to create our own community through dialogue and collaborative research.

Note: LEAP: 1260- 001 fulfills the university's Social / Behavioral Science Exploration (BF) requirement.

Course Goals

- Improve students' ability to read and interpret social science research and texts
- Improve students' knowledge of, and ability to read and interpret, works of art
- Improve students' ability to communicate ideas clearly in speech and writing
- Improve students' skills as users of library resources, including the ability to conduct research and become more information literate
- Improve students' teamwork and critical thinking skills
- Improve students' awareness of resources around the university and in Salt Lake City
- Develop oral presentation skills

General Education Learning Outcome

Collaborate Effectively

- Communicate effectively with people from diverse backgrounds.
- Incorporate ideas from many diverse lived experiences.
- Develop effective teamwork behaviors and attitudes.
- Navigate conflict productively.

Additionally, as a LEAP learning community, we also have the following goals:

A) Intellectual Connections – We'll work to make connections among disciplines, experiences, academic courses, and perspectives

B) Intrapersonal Connections – We'll work on developing the ability to reflect critically on our own process of thinking, writing, and presenting. Students will reflect on the connections between their life (roles as a student, family member employee, citizen), and the course content.

C) Community Connections – We'll develop a sense of belonging to the campus and community.

FOR FULL SYLLABUS SEE CANVAS OR EMAIL DR. RIVKIN