



MARTHA BRADLEY EVANS
Center for Teaching Excellence

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Leap 1265 – Art & Social Change

Spring 2025

(001) Tu/Th – 10:45am -12:05pm

(002) Tu/Th – 12:25am – 1:45pm

Instructor: Dr. Joshua Rivkin

Email: Joshua.rivkin@utah.edu

Office Hours: Tu 2pm-3pm and by appointment

Office Location: Sill Center 009B

Course Description

In this interdisciplinary, discussion-based course, students explore social issues through the lens of the arts and the humanities. Students will examine the often hidden or invisible narratives of people, places, and communities. Using literature, film, art, music, dance, as well other forms of entertainment and media, we will think about some of the most complex problems and questions of American society. From writing a hybrid creative nonfiction essay to creating original, interactive StoryMap projects about a social issue in their communities, course assignments ask the students to think critically and creatively. As with all LEAP classes, there is an embedded Peer Advisor and dedicated library research sessions to help students succeed. This learning community class is a great way for students to build community, develop critical skills, and complete multiple Gen Ed requirements. The very practical goal of the course is to help students further develop their ability to close read a range of texts, think critically, and work collaboratively. Students also will develop and deepen their research skills and their very sense of what research can be.

Note: LEAP 1265 fulfills the university's Humanities Exploration (HF) / Diversity (DV) requirement

Course Outcomes and Objectives

The goals of the course are as follows:

- To develop students' ability to read and interpret a variety of texts including nonfiction, fiction, poetry, film, visual art, and music / dance.
- To improve students' teamwork and critical thinking skills
- To hone students' skills as users of library resources, including the ability to conduct research and become more information literate
- To increase knowledge of contemporary social issues
- To improve students' ability to engage respectfully with conflicting points of view

- To help students develop the ability to communicate ideas clearly in speech and writing.

Course Requirements

The course will include a range of shorter weekly assignments, in-class presentations, creative projects, and the creation of a collaborative project for the LEAP Symposium.

Engagement	10%
Attendance	10%
Shorter / Weekly Assignments	25%
Collaborative Research Project (Symposium)	25%
Creative Writing Project	15%
Shorter Presentations	10%
Final Reflection Essay	5%

Grading Scale

A (100 – 94%)	A- (93% - 90%)	B+ (89% - 88%)	B (87 – 84%)
B- (83%-80%)	C+ (79%-78%)	C (77%-74%)	C- (73%-70%)
D+ (69%-68%)			

Note: For final grades, I grade up if your score is .5 or higher.

University Policies

Updated mandatory syllabus policies regarding the ADA Act, Safety at the U, Addressing Sexual Misconduct, and Academic Misconduct can be viewed at:

<https://cte.utah.edu/instructor-education/syllabus/institutional-policies.php>

Preliminary Course Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic/Discussion</u>
Week 1:	Course Introduction and Syllabus/Schedule Review
Week 2:	Readings from <i>Draw Your Weapons</i> , Assorted Additional Readings
Week 3:	Readings from <i>Draw Your Weapons</i> , Assorted Additional Readings
Week 4:	Readings from <i>Draw Your Weapons</i>
Week 5:	Readings from <i>Draw Your Weapon</i>
Week 6:	In class writing workshops

Week 7: *Unfathomable City* Readings

Week 8: *Unfathomable City* Readings

Spring Break

Week 9: Library Session (Special Collections)

Week 10: Readings from *Zeitoun*, Assorted Additional Readings

Week 11: Readings from *Zeitoun*, Assorted Additional Readings

Week 12: Readings from *Zeitoun*

Week 13: Readings from *Zeitoun*

Week 14: Symposium Project Collaboration

Week 15: Symposium Project Collaboration

Symposium - April 21, 2024 @ 3:00 pm – 4:30pm - Union Ballroom