Social Justice: Navigating Cultural Competence in the 21st Century
What is Social Justice?

There are many ways to think about social justice, yet most frameworks include some variation of the following principles from ACT for Social Justice.

A socially just world...

- meets everyone’s basic needs (food, housing, healthcare, education) in a dignified way.
- treats people from every background with dignity and respect.
- supports the development of all people to their full potential.
- guarantees equitable distribution of resources.
- makes sure all people are physically and psychologically safe and secure.
- ensures everyone has a voice in the decisions that affect them.
What to Expect in This Course

● The course is synchronous. An online chat takes place once a week with all participants.

● Multimedia resources are used to introduce and illuminate topics.

● All course material is shared online (there are no printed materials with this course).

● For many assignments, students work collaboratively and/or share what they’ve learned with the group.
We explore social justice issues from both modern and historical perspectives, using current events to frame our explorations.
Students are asked thought-provoking questions, such as these from the unit on economic justice:

*How does classism shape our perception even if the person “at the top” of the hierarchy is doing good? Consider, for example, Mark Zuckerberg’s action to create a foundation in honor of his daughter. Is he doing good work, or is he some rich guy who found a tax loophole?*
Discussions range from gender and race to religion and sexual orientation, and many more topics. Students explore how social justice issues, such as those around religion and race or economics and gender, are connected.

Discussions are carefully facilitated, with emphasis placed on creating a supportive, respectful atmosphere among class participants and making sure everyone has a voice.
“For future students taking this course, I would recommend that you keep an open mind... you will really enjoy this course!” (Xander)

“Finding your voice outside of societal labels is an important part of the class's experience.” (Sennen)

“This class really inspired me to think about what I personally can do to "take action" in regards to social justice. This led to me wanting to do a senior project combining a few of my different interests (music, dance) and using them to draw attention to human rights issues.” (Hannah)