ENG 410: MAKING SOCIAL JUSTICE
WINTER 2023

"THE PHILOSOPHERS HAVE ONLY INTERPRETED THE WORLD, IN VARIOUS WAYS. THE POINT, HOWEVER, IS TO CHANGE IT.”

— KARL MARX, ELEVEN THESIS ON FEUERBACH

Requirements Met: English Major Categories F and G; Disability Studies Minor (Fieldwork)

Social justice groups have a long history of wins. In this service-learning class, students learn this history while helping to make it through their internships. Class work reveals the brainstorms, daily work, strategies, and messaging needed to move beyond analyzing inequality into positive change. Meanwhile, students take their pick among a wide variety of community partners that provide informed care and advocate for racial, disability, mental health, queer/trans, gender, economic, and health equity. We’ll study memoirs, documentary films, and movement histories to analyze paradigm shifts, the social power of new language, the nuts-and-bolts work of making social justice, and the personal meanings of public commitment. The classroom also provides a space to form cohorts, reflect on community experiences, and develop an intersectional vision of social justice.

Readings From:

Alicia Garza, The Purpose of Power: How We Come Together When We Fall Apart

Judy Heumann, Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist

Sasha Issenberg, The Engagement: America’s Quarter-Century Struggle Over Same-Sex Marriage

Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarisinha, Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice

Films:

Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution
How to Survive a Plague

A Few Among Many Possible Internship Sites:

TransPonder, Black Unity, Mobility International USA, Centro Latinoamericano, First Place Family Center, MindFreedom International, Relief Nursery, Bridgeway House, HIV Alliance, Beyond Toxics, Bristol Hospice, Oregon Adaptive Sports, OSLP Arts and Culture, Sponsors, Oregon Coalition Against Hate Crime