1. **AI 257 Engage for Change: Get Informed, Involved and Connected**  
   Spring 2017

2. **Instructor:** Elisabeth Lindsay-Ryan  
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3. **Course Dates:** Mondays, April 3rd - June 5th 5:45-9:00PM

4. **Course Location:** Loop

5. **Course Description**

   Name your cause. Whether it is the death penalty, reproductive rights, cancer advocacy, heart disease, homelessness, social security, welfare reform, marriage equality or the environment most people would like to see the world change in some way. The reality is that not everybody has found a way to engage in their community and make their voice heard. Students will engage in personal and collective reflection to explore their own learning styles and the experiential learning process. They will learn how everyday citizens can organize to make sure the issues that matter to them can be addressed at city, state, and national levels. The course will utilize speakers, discussion, learning journals, readings, and small group exercises to provide an environment where students can explore their own beliefs and perspectives on social change, democracy, citizenship and the process of government in the United States.

6. **Learning Outcomes, Competencies, and/or Objectives**

   **Outcomes**
   In this course there are some universal intended outcomes. Everyone will engage in learning about the historical and social contexts that have led to civic engagement and how they impact the experience of individual and group members in our society. This course will examine various environments in which civic engagement and social change occur. By examining both the various ways one can create change and the multitude of issues one can choose to get involved with we will develop an understanding of the experience of others and ourselves. Students in this class will explore their own knowledge of social change and what motivates them to be engaged in change. By engaging in individual reflection, small group work, and class discussion we will examine what we can do to make a better world.

7. **Learning Strategies & Resources**

   **Learning Experience**
   Lecture, discussion, speakers, and small group work, will be used in conjunction to offer a classroom environment that embraces a variety of learning styles and strives to provide information in a way that all students can process.

   Readings will be assigned on a weekly basis to provide a foundation of understanding for social change. **All reading will be available on D2L. Students are not required to purchase any materials for this course.** These readings will help students understand individual ways to affect change and the diversity of opportunities in getting involved.
There will be a selection of readings that will include but will not be limited to the following texts:

Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*
Howard G. Buffet, *40 Chances: Finding Hope in a Hungry World*
Bill Clinton, *Giving: How Each of Us Can Change the World*
Dan Gilmor, *We the Media*
Nicholas Kristoff & Sheryl WuDunn, *Half the Sky*
Paul Rogat Loeb, *Soul of a Citizen: Living with Conviction in Challenging Time*
Holly Morris, *Adventure Divas*
Greg Mortenson, *Three Cups of Tea*
Keith Morton, *Starfish Hurling and Community Service*
Barrack Obama, *Dreams from My Father*
Kevin & Hannah Salwen, *Power of Half*
Clay Shirky, *Here Comes Everybody*
Tavis Smiley, *The Covenant in Action*
Wendy Smith, *Give A Little*
Don Tapscott, *Grown up Digital*
Tom Watson, *CauseWired*
Joel Westheimer & Joseph Kahne, *Educating the “Good” Citizen: Political Choices and Pedagogical Goals*
Urvashi Vaid, *Irresistible Revolution*

8. Learning Deliverables

**Learning Journal**
Students will be required to write journal entries expressing your feelings, perspectives, and ideas about the specific topics provided. These journals should be an integration of personal reflection and an opportunity to discuss readings, class discussion, and illustrate their mastery of the material. Topics will be given by the instructor in class the week before they are due. Journals are due in class on the assigned date.

**Action Assignments**
Each week there will be an action assignment that corresponds with what we will be doing in class. You will be required to complete the action assignment and write a paragraph about what you did that week. These assignments will be explained in class along with the journal assignment for each week.

**Attendance and Participation**
It is crucial to your success in this class to be present and engaged in classroom discussion. This class is intended to be extremely interactive, a significant portion of your experience and understanding of the learning process, civic engagement, social change and activism will be developed through your interactions with each other and our speakers. Small group and class discussion will be essential to your integration of the written material and personal experience. Therefore, students must inform the instructor of any absences. Any student missing more than TWO classes will be expected to drop the course.

**Civic Engagement/Social Change Event**
During the quarter you will be required to attend an event outside of class that focuses on an aspect of social change and/or civic engagement. **You will be required to write a response 3-4 pages on the experience due May 15th (Week 7). Questions will be provided.**

**Final Project**
Students will be responsible for completing 3-4 page paper as capstone of their learning experience in this class. The format will be a reflective essay examining your own experiences and connections to civic engagement and social change. The project should focus on what YOU can or will do in the future to strive for change. **This assignment should be submitted during the last class on June 5th.**

9. **Assessment of Student Learning**
Competencies
L3: Can assess the social and personal value of civic engagement for achieving change.

A-4: Can analyze a problem using two different ethical systems.

H-2-B: Can use public or private institutions as resources for understanding a social issue.

FX: Role of organizations and companies in civic engagement

10. **Grading Criteria & Scale**
Journal & Action Assignments: 40%
Attendance, Participation & Biggest and Best Presentation: 25%
Social Change Event: 20%
Final Project: 15%

11. **Course Schedule**
Week One-4/3
Introduction to Course
Civic Engagement Overview

Week Two- 4/10
Understanding Our Motivations
Learning Styles
Understanding Our Identities
World’s Best Organization/Biggest Problem Presenters Sign Up

**Readings:**
Howard G. Buffet, *40 Chances: Finding Hope in a Hungry World* (pp. 9-17)
Paul Rogat Loeb, *Soul of a Citizen: Living with Conviction in Challenging Times*
Peter Temes, *The Power of Purpose: Living Well By Doing Good* (pp. 21-36, 215-238)
Joel John Roberts, *We Don’t Need Good Samaritans, We Need Great Ones*
Bill Clinton, *Giving: How Each of Us Can Change the World* (pp. 42-55, 185-203)
Shao Yanxiang, *Taking Action: America* (pp. 179-180)
Julia Kasdorf, *Taking Action: America* (pp. 93-94)
Assignment: Action 1-Join an action list
Week Three- 4/17
Volunteering/Working for a Cause
Making Change By Focusing on a Cause/Issue
Making Engagement Your Career
Speaker: Sister Helen Prejean
Readings:
Prejean, Death of Innocents (11-37, 179-183, 194, 197-204, 207-219)
Prejean, Dear Young Person
Michelle Alexander, The New Jim Crow (pp.97-126)
Joel Westheimer & Joseph Kahne, Educating the “Good” Citizen: Political Choices and Pedagogical Goals (pp. 1-7)
Keith Morton, Starfish Hurling and Community Service (p. 1-2)
Assignment: Journal #1, Action 2- Learn about another person’s experience in civic engagement

Week Four-4/24
World's Biggest Problem Presenters
Making Change Through Ally Development
Making Change By Individual and Institutional Advocacy
Speakers: Advocacy Juliet Berger-White & Njoki Kamau
Readings:
Keith Edwards, Aspiring Social Justice All Identity Development: A Conceptual Model (pp. 39-57)
Howard G. Buffet, 40 Chances: Finding Hope in a Hungry World (pp. 65-71)
Steve Corbett&Brian Fikkert, When Helping Hurts (pp.99-116)
http://pippabiddle.com/
Holly Morris, Adventure Divas (pp. 33-38, 163-174)
Barrack Obama Dreams from My Father (pp. 133-143, 187-195)
Martin Espada, Taking Action:America (pp.187-188)
Assignment: Journal # 2, Action 3- Give a Thing/Skill, World’s Biggest Problem Presenters

Week Five- 5/1
Government, Democracy & Civic Engagement
Committing to Change at the Local Level
Speakers: Cicely Fleming, Suni Kartha & Anya Tanyavutti
Readings: Tavis Smiley, The Covenant in Action, (pp. 33-47, 48-72)
Tom Watson, CauseWired (pp.159-163)
Clay Shirky, Here Comes Everybody (pp.61-66, 298-304)
Dan Gilmor, We the Media (pp. 137-147)
Margaret Atwood, Taking Action:America (pp.183-184)
http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/
Assignment: Journal # 3, Action 4- Advocate for someone or something

Week Six- 5/8
Making Change By Focusing on a Cause/Issue
Making Engagement Your Career
Making Change By Giving Money
Ethical Dilemmas
Speakers: Fundraising for Change Ali Finkel, Renee Ruffing & Rebecca Lindsay-Ryan

Readings:
Greg Mortensen, Three Cups of Tea (pp.47-56)
Wendy, Smith Give A Little: How Your Small Donations Can Transform Our World (21-26, 29-32, 244-253, 262-267)
Kevin & Hannah Salwen, The Power of Half: One Family’s Decision to Stop Taking and Start Giving Back (pp.44-66)
Tom Watson, CauseWired (pp.12-21)
Kelli Covey, Taking Action: America (pp.190-198)
Myles Horton, Taking Action: America (pp.102-111)
http://mic.com/articles/102220/vote-with-your-wallet-companies-to-avoid-if-you-support-equality-in-america?
http://wearethatfamily.com/2014/10/dear-world-lets-stop-giving-our-crap-to-the-poor/
Assignment: Journal # 4, Action 5- Become more informed about government

Week Seven-5/15
The Role of Faith in Social Change/Civic Engagement
Speakers: Social Change Motivations: Abdul Malik Ryan, Rabbi Rachel Weiss & Taurean Webb
Readings: Urvashi Vaid, Irresistible Revolution (pp.159-174)
Nicholas Kristof & Sheryl WuDunn, Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity For Women Worldwide (pp. 131-148)
Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert, When Helping Hurts (pp.151-158)
Bill Clinton, Giving: How Each of Us Can Change the World (pp. 88-96)
Holly Morris, Adventure Divas (pp.226-237, 243-246)
Assignment: SOCIAL CHANGE/CIVIC ENGAGEMENT EVENT ASSIGNMENT DUE, Action 6- Make a donation

Week Eight-5/22
World's Best Organization Presenters
Creating Solutions for Social Change
Building a Foundation for Action
Readings: Tavis Smiley, The Covenant in Action. (pp.73-89)
Don Tapscott, Grown up Digital (pp. 244-262)
Tom Watson, CauseWired (pp.170-172)
Assignment: Journal # 5, Action 7- Learn about a faith’s perspective on Social Change/Giving/Civic Engagement, World’s Best Organization Presenter

Week Nine-5/29
NO CLASS - Memorial Day

Week Ten-6/5
Where do we go from here?
Readings:
http://wearethatfamily.com/2014/02/i-think-we-may-be-missing-something-very-important/#sthash.f67gxdNQ.pITvWfhj.dpbo
Assignment: FINAL PROJECT DUE, Action 8- Find a solution for change and do it

12. Course Policies
This course includes and adheres to the college and university policies described in the links below:
   Academic Integrity Policy (UGRAD)
   Academic Integrity Policy (GRAD)
   Incomplete Policy
   Course Withdrawal Timelines and Grade/Fee Consequences
   Accommodations Based on the Impact of a Disability
   Protection of Human Research Participants
   APA citation format (GRAD)

13. Course Resources
   University Center for Writing-based Learning
   SNL Writing Guide
   Dean of Students Office

14. Instructor Brief Bio
Elisabeth Lindsay-Ryan is a diversity professor, trainer and consultant. She completed her Master’s of Arts at DePaul University in Human Services and Counseling in 2000, and she earned her Bachelor’s of Arts at DePauw University majoring in History with Minors in African American Studies and Education in 1997. She served as the Director of Programs at the Women’s Center at Northwestern University from November 2000-September 2008 where her responsibilities included chairing several university wide committees including serving as the Co-Chair for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Support Network. She has been involved as a volunteer, an activist, Board Member, Advisor and Consultant with over 150 organizations addressing a range of issues from rape to cancer awareness. She has led or participated on six extended service trips working on the San Carlos Apache Reservation, homelessness, disabled children, civil rights education, and habitat for humanity. She currently resides in Evanston with her wife Becca, her children Katie, Jack and Harper, and her dog Dayton.