

Arts and Social Justice Practicum

AS.230.323 Center for Africana Studies

Department of Sociology
Johns Hopkins University

Course Description

This course introduces students to concepts of social justice and practices of community-engaged artmaking. It also provides students an opportunity to explore the history and legacies of the Black arts movement, and contemporary intersections of art and social justice in Baltimore City. Local artists and scholars will share their expertise using art to challenge social injustice. In turn, students will examine their personal creative practices and how they can be used to create and advocate for change. Throughout the semester, students will develop individual art projects that respond to course topics and are rooted in the principles and process of social practice art. Successful participation in this course depends on active classroom discussion of course readings, off-campus engagement, and a collaborative work ethic. By the end of the course, students will: (1) be able to design an art project for a social issue; (2) better understand the ecosystem of Baltimore artists who center on social justice; and (3) have enhanced their individual capacity for arts-based community engagement regarding issues of equity.

At the end of the term, students will produce a public group exhibition to present their artistic projects for their peers and a panel of community artists.