Developing a Social Justice Mindset

You've probably asked yourself the question, “Can’t we all just get along?” a few times in your life. Perhaps recent headlines, such as, "Unarmed Black Male Killed by White Police Officer;" or, “Transgender Homecoming King Commits Suicide;” or, “Massacre in Syria;” or, “Teen Bullying on the Rise,” have evoked this question even more. But, what does it mean for all of us to get along? Will we ever? And, what will it take for all of us to get along? In this course, students will seek the answers to these questions, while simultaneously working to develop a social justice mindset. Developing a social justice mindset requires an awareness of oneself; an appreciation for diversity of cultural experiences; an understanding of privilege, power, and difference; and a deep-seated desire for equity, equality, and justice in the world. Students will engage with course readings, class discussions, films, news headlines, TV shows, and other media as they explore their own positionality, create community, and find ways to be advocates and activists for social justice in their personal lives, on campus, and within larger society. Non-traditional teaching and class settings will be utilized as much as possible during the semester.