

Teaching Social Justice:

Exploring the Ramifications and Lessons from Katrina and Iraq

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Presenters:

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Social Justice in PHN: Lessons from Katrina & Iraq

- Honors College
- One choice of honors required activity
- 1 credit / 1 hour per week
- 10 students
- Multidisciplinary:
 - Nursing
 - Political Science
 - Humanities
 - Psychology
 - Women's studies
 - English
 - Philosophy
 - Pre-Med

Cast of Characters

- Faculty
- Diversity: Age, ethnicity, gender
- Veterans
- Homeless
- Chronically ill
- Range of experience and background

Expectations

- Weekly posting:
 - US Dollars spent on war
 - Iraq death toll
- Readings
- Weekly reflection essays
- Current events
- Active participation
- Double up classes = 2 hours
- Final presentation
 - Individual or with partner

Readings

- State of the Union Address
- Poverty
- Linguistic analysis of news coverage
- Trauma
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Poetry
- All the Kings Men
- Bekemeier & Butterfield: Irreconcilable Inconsistencies
- Iris Chang: Rape of Nanking

Guest Speakers

- Katrina health volunteer
- Katrina family member
- Military Families Speak Out
- Kovler Center for Torture Survivors



Crash

- Cultural stereotypes
- Capacity for evil
- Capacity for good



Student presentations

Poverty

Electric shock treatment

Ciudad Juarez murders

Vagina Monologues

Aftermath of Katrina

US torture of Iraqi prisoners

Katrina and Racism

Iraq slides



Outcomes

- Positive evaluations
- Exposed the narrowness of nursing curriculum & socialization
- Increased depth & breadth of understanding of:
 - Social justice
 - Current events
 - Political spin
 - Variety of experiences and perspective

Revisions

- Larger group
 - Safety in numbers
 - Each student's personality would have had less influence
- NOW what lessons?
 - Soon after Katrina
 - Politics of Iraq changed dramatically
- ↑Nursing & nursing content
 - More on the standards, ethics
 - Who are our clients?
 - Extent required to fulfill one's accountability as a health professional

Closing reading: Convoy

