This special topic LEAP course takes a close look at food and water justice, a grassroots effort to ensure broad access to fresh, nutritious, affordable, culturally-appropriate food, and adequate clean water. Both the production of and ability to consume healthy food and clean water are considered in this course. Through dynamic community engaged learning, we connect with groups across the U campus and in the Salt Lake Valley whose missions align with food justice.

Food and water justice are timely issues where a great deal of good can be done for various communities. Dozens of grassroots organizations have emerged across the campus and state to address food insecurity and inequality in access. Food and water justice are closely related to racial justice, as communities of color face structural barriers in their pursuit of fair working conditions and plentiful access to culturally appropriate food.
MAD SKILLS

This class has a particular focus on academic skills you’ll use across the span of your degree. These skills, such as finding academic literature, understanding all the numbers people throw around, and effective writing practices, are built into the projects we pursue. The goal is that you leave the class with the kind of skills that make you unstoppable.

DR. COCO JAMES, INSTRUCTOR

Hi! Dr. CoCo here. Nice to meet you! Let me tell you a bit about myself. I am an intellectual troublemaker and an emotional trouble mender. Basically, that means that I have high academic standards and a super soft heart. As a critical behavioral scientist by training I spend a lot of time disrupting the status quo. However, I recognize that is a challenging undertaking for all of us, so I love my students through all the ups and downs of that journey. I believe engaged students are learning students, and we laugh a lot in my classes.

NUTS AND BOLTS OF THE CLASS

LEAP Food and Water Justice carries BF, CEL, and SUSL general education course attributes. BF courses “help students understand institutions, cultures, and behaviors by focusing on big questions... with fundamental concepts, theories, and methods of analysis used in the social and behavioral sciences, and enable students to think critically about the diversity of human behavior and society...” CEL courses “include elements of both in-class and community-based learning opportunities.” Twenty-five hours of service are built into this class, and course curriculum is purposefully tied to that service. SUSL courses carefully consider sustainability, a key component in food and water justice. These particular attributes foster community, pave the way for enriched learning experiences over the course of your degree, and can lead to degree enhancements such as Food Studies, Bennion Scholars and various Sustainability Studies programs, projects, and learning communities.

We have a great time in this class – I look forward to having you join us!