SW 674: SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE GREAT AMERICAN CITY

If you are interested in social policy, social justice, social work, community building, concerned about institutionalized racism, and marginalized members of society this course if for you. It also doesn't hurt that you really like to watch TV.

We will watch episodes of the critically acclaimed TV show *The Wire* in order to shed light on, and begin to understand the two most important elements of good policy: 1) how to assess and diagnose social problems; and 2) how to mount effective policy and programmatic solutions to those problems. Readings and episodes will examine issues of poverty, racial segregation and other forms of structured social exclusion. We will draw on knowledge from Sociology, Political Science, Public Policy & Administration, and Social Work that examine the knotty problem of institutionalized failure and neglect in order to better understand how zones of concentrated poverty and human misery are constructed and maintained with a nation of great wealth and extraordinarily advanced civic, legal and governmental institutions.

**Eric Lock** is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Social Work. He has taught a wide variety of social work and social policy courses for over 14 years, beginning as a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Chicago, followed by lectureships at the University of Washington and now the University of Wisconsin. He has a research background in social policy implementation, public opinion analysis and youth development programs and organizations. Before teaching, Eric worked as a social worker in Chicago, IL, working initially with adults with developmental disabilities and as a youth worker in the Washington Park neighborhood, where he established and ran an outreach program for adolescent males normally overlooked by schools and social services agencies.