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## Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Teach-In

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## Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Teach-In

January 7, 2013

Bloomington, Ill.—Each year students gather at the Hansen Student Center (300 Beecher St., Bloomington) on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday, Jan. 21, from 1-4 p.m., and discuss a social justice theme. This year the theme is “Prison Reform and Human Rights.” The teach-in, which is open to the public, consists of three separate hour-long panels.



At the 2012 Teach-In, Megan Thompson, Peace Fellow and panel organizer, leads a discussion on the topic, “Food Insecurity: International, National, and Local Perspectives.”

The 1 p.m. panel on Prison Reform in Illinois will feature a keynote address by John Maki, executive director of the John Howard Association of Illinois. Bob Sutherland of the Central Illinois chapter of the ACLU and member of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) of McLean County will also speak. The CJCC has worked over the past twelve years to improve conditions at the McLean County jail and to relieve overcrowding with initiatives like the Drug Court and Mental Health Court. Attendees will have time following these presentations to consider discussion questions at their tables and will report back to the whole.

The 2 p.m. panel is being organized by the IWU Peace Fellows, who will present information they have collected over the last two years while advocating for political prisoners across the globe. Last year the group worked on the Chen Guangcheng case, and this year they are working on the case of two Russian physicists. Discussion questions will be provided.

The 3 p.m. panel will feature a discussion of a shared text: Andrew Clapham's *Human Rights: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford, 2007). The assembled will first discuss the text at their tables and then with the whole. This title was distributed to 70 students who participated in the fall semester cluster of courses focusing on **Making Human Rights Real** (MHRR).

For additional information, contact the Action Research Center at (309) 825-6006 or [www.iwu.edu/action/](http://www.iwu.edu/action/)