Program Mission
Just Living, the University of Iowa's Spring 2016 Theme Semester on social justice, will explore values, beliefs, and positioning by examining our past and looking to our future. By understanding ourselves, our relationship to others, and the natural world, we can make intentional choices to connect with others. By choosing to be aware of where we come and where we are, we will engage more with individuals and our larger community.

Each theme semester strives to accomplish the following four goals:

- Promote attention to the theme as a vital field of study across all 11 colleges, spanning a number of disciplines
- Build partnerships among individuals and groups working toward similar goals
- Engage Iowans in the semester-long conversation of how the topic reflects in the work being done in communities across the state
- Secure ongoing support for the most promising initiatives that emerge from the semester so as to retain the momentum for generations of Iowans to come

Brief History
The theme semester concept started with the first program in 2014-2015, Food for Thought. The idea grew out of a meeting at the Obermann Center where our campus came together over one common topic and conversation focus. Other institutions had done the program for over 30 years, UI felt like it was a good direction to proceed. Linda Snetselaar became involved, and O&E became the administrative home.

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