

## Social Justice

### Purpose

The proposed interdisciplinary major in Social Justice aims to understand the nature of communities so to unite people of different social identities (race, ethnicity, gender, class, etc) and to understand how communities create and sustain social and political movements. Drawing from the fields of sociology, economics, philosophy, politics, and environmental biology the major incorporates various aspects of how members of society coexist with each other yet does not equally distribute privilege, wealth, and power. The major seek to develop an intimate understanding of how power circulates throughout society and the social implication which power and oppression has on groups in order to conclude a functional method in resolving social injustices.

Three sections make up this major: societal studies, social group identities, and theorizing society and social justice. The aim of societal studies is to establish how wealth is circulated, how people coexist with one another and the environment, and theorizing the ideal society. The next segment works to understand in-group identity. This stretch studies the inward relationship between the individual and their social group, the role oppression and privilege plays in how members of the group interacts with other members in both sustaining society and struggling for power and the effects of fighting for or against movements towards equality. The third section theorizes issues pertaining to society and social justice. Methodology and theory evaluates the purpose and implications on society caused by conflict (or lack thereof) in relationships between individuals (symbolic interaction) and groups. This length applies this evaluation to theories of conflict resolution and the effects of justice on society.

## Social Justice major outline

- A) Societal studies
- B) Social group identities
- C) Theorizing society and social justice

### A

Econ 200 Microeconomics  
 Econ 210 Macroeconomics  
 Soc 360 Urban Community  
 Soc 350 Consumerism in Context  
 Bio 104 Environmental Biology  
 Poli 235 Public Policy  
 Phil 360 Social and Political Philosophy

### B

Soc 270 Race and Ethnicity  
 Soc 310 Gender and Sexuality  
 Poli 380 Gender Sexuality and Am Politics

### C

Poli 390 Independent Study: Constructivism on Ethnic Conflicts  
 and the Behavior of International Organizations  
 Soc Research Methods / other methodological course  
 Anth 360 Anthropological Theory  
 490 SJ Social Justice Senior Paper

## CHART OF COURSES IN THE SOCIAL JUSTICE MAJOR

COURSE	DESCRIPTION	RELEVANCY	COMP YES	LETED NO
Econ 200 Microeconomics	Introduction to concepts and methods of microeconomics. Emphasis is placed on resource allocation, effects of market structures, and the manner in which these market structures affect the economics decisions of a business entity.	is included to understand how people and local businesses are impacted by the economy.	X	
Econ 210 Macroeconomics	Introduction to concepts and methods of macroeconomics. Topics such as inflation, unemployment, and economic growth are examined. The role of monetary and fiscal policy in achieving macroeconomic objectives is emphasized.	Is included to understand how the economy functions as to provide a framework in understanding the influence of wealth.		X
Soc 360 Urban Community	Emphasis on a sociological understanding of urban and community processes. Topics of special interest include the political economy of cities, growth, housing, urban revitalization, architecture and use of space, design for sustainability, and cross cultural comparisons.	Examines how people live and cooperate with each other. The final project studied the effects of class and race on housing districts in Conway.	X	
Soc 350 Consumerism in Context	An examination of the culture of consumerism in local, national, and global contexts. A broad spectrum of beliefs and behaviors associated with consumerism will be traced from past to present, with an emphasis on the power relationships and ideologies that promote and oppose consumerism in the United States and around the world.	Adds to the understanding of the alterations class struggle and consumerism has on individualism, group consciousness, and the unique social forces found in a capitalist system.	X	
Bio 104 Environmental Biology	An introduction to principles of ecology as they relate to the human concerns of overpopulation, resource management, pollution, and environmental ethics.	This course describes the environmental issues human populations face. Special projects specialized in urban environmentalism and grassroots activism.	X	
Phil 360 Social and Political Philosophy	Study and evaluation of the major philosophical theories and controversies shaping our contemporary political debates over such issues as the nature of social and economic justice, the meaning of equality, the limits of individual freedom, the sources of political obligation, and	Examines the theories of society in law, democracy, and liberty.	X	

major's ability to identify how influences outside of the field of sociology effects the way people live with each other and see themselves. Courses in philosophy and theoretical sociology/politics are added so to train in identifying and questioning the qualifications of oppression, how should communities function, and what process ought to bring the change necessary for a more cohesive and just community.

### Final Paper

The final paper will draw from the courses, internships, and undergraduate research to conduct an extensive explanation of social justice from the approaches of social identity, policy, ethics, and theory. The objective of this course is to evaluate the causes of social injustice, attempting to find a common pattern in oppression, examine the effects of injustice on both the dominant and dominated groups, explore possible means of resistance to oppression, from grassroots to national social movements, and study the nature of revolution. Concluding the term will be a forty-minute presentation on the paper with a question and answer follow-up between student and advisors.