

Jennifer Zilly

Class of 2012

## Proposed Interdisciplinary Major: Social Justice

The proposed interdisciplinary major in Social Justice aims to understand the root causes of poverty and social inequality by examining existing social structures and theorizing about practical ways to create a fair and just society. This major will draw from the fields of History, Sociology, Politics, Economics, and Philosophy. The Social Justice major seeks “to develop an intimate understanding of how power circulates throughout society and the social implication which power and oppression have on groups in order to arrive at a functional method to resolve social injustices (taken from a previous Social Justice proposal).”

The Social Justice major is comprised of three sections (11 classes total): Understanding Poverty, Race and Human Rights; Forces and Ideas that Influence Societal Structure; and Theorizing Society and Social Justice. The aim of the first section is to gain a strong grasp of the issues in poverty, gender equality, and human rights that polarize society today. A firm foundation in this first category is necessary for understanding the other two categories. Forces and Ideas that Influence Social Structure seeks to further explain the causes and political structures that create the modern society. The last segment, Theorizing Society and Social Justice, aims to use my knowledge of social justice to begin picturing the ideal society. This section also seeks to “understand how communities create and sustain social and political movements (taken from a previous Social Justice proposal.)”

I have chosen to create my own major because I want to draw from several fields to better understand poverty, inequality and the fight for human rights. I am interested in working with some form of non-profit or ministry after graduation, so I believe a major in Social Justice will prepare me for such a career. I am also looking into the possibility of pairing my major with either a Spanish or Accounting minor.

### Social Justice Major Outline:

#### A) Understanding Poverty, Race and Human Rights

##### **Three of the following:**

Course/Status	Course Description	Relevancy to Social Justice Major
HIST 214 Poverty and Welfare in America  <b>Status: Enrolled for Spring 2010</b>	With emphasis on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, this course will investigate the roots of poverty in the American economic system, in order to examine why so many people remain poor in the richest nation on earth. This course will also look at the evolution and larger macroeconomic purposes of the American welfare state, using first-hand accounts by poor people and antipoverty	This course will help me to gain a stronger grasp of America’s welfare policies and how they affect poverty in our country.

	activists.	
<p>POLI 326 International Human Rights</p> <p><b>Status: Enrolled for Spring 2010</b></p>	<p>This course will look closely at the development of the human rights idea in theory, history and practice. This course will examine competing theories of human rights, the development of international and regional human rights institutions especially in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the influence of NGOs in the promotion and protection of human rights, the expansion of human rights protections to diverse populations, and emerging human rights approaches to solving a number of pressing global problems.</p>	<p>My current knowledge of international human rights is minimal, so this course will expand my horizons beyond a purely American scope. I will then be able to compare American injustices with those of the rest of the world.</p>
<p>HIST 290 African American History to 1865</p> <p><b>Status: Currently enrolled for Fall 2009</b></p>	<p>This course examines the major topics in African American history... Emphasis will be placed on the use of a multidimensional approach to analyze African American culture, lifestyles, and related issues.</p>	<p>This course will extend my knowledge of slavery all the way back to its African roots. By learning the whole story of the African slave trade, I will be further informed of how our country's past still affects racial, social, and economic issues today.</p>

## B) Forces and Ideas that Influence Societal Structure

### Three of the following:

Course/Status	Course Description	Relevancy to Social Justice Major
<p>POLI 235 Public Policy</p> <p><b>Status: Currently enrolled for Fall 2009</b></p>	<p>An introduction to the process of formulating, implementing, and evaluating public policy in the United States with particular attention to policy devoted to education, health care, and environmental policies.</p>	<p>This course will help me to understand the work that goes into implementing public policy, and how policies affect America's citizens.</p>
<p>ECON 210 Principles of Macroeconomics</p> <p><b>Status: Completed Spring 2009</b></p>	<p>Topics such as inflation, unemployment, and economic growth are examined. The role of monetary and fiscal policy in achieving macroeconomic objectives is emphasized.</p>	<p>By studying macroeconomics, I will learn how fiscal and monetary policies affect the health of our economy, specifically for the poor and underprivileged citizens.</p>
<p>POLI 260-G Political Economy</p>	<p>Combining the history of the development of political economy globally with an in-depth analysis of contemporary developments and future prognostications, this course aims to arm students of politics with an understanding of how economics intersects with the political world, broadly defined. While the course focuses on politics and economics, it necessarily branches out to touch many</p>	<p>This course will explain how politics and economics simultaneously influence our world, and the implications of such an intersection.</p>

	other disciplines, from history and religion to sociology and business.	
SOCI 300 Urban Community	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.	Because urban settings are often home to much of America's low-income citizens, this course will expand on my current knowledge of urban life so that I may better understand what makes urban America tick, along with what could make it better.
SOCI 320 Peace and War	This course critically analyzes the social forces that lead to war, the military industrial complex, war's social consequences, and nonviolent alternatives to conflict. Contemporary global conflicts will be discussed in their socio-historical context, and both institutional and grassroots attempts at peace will be examined.	This course will thoroughly examine peace efforts and social justice issues in the context of war and conflict.
PHIL 201 Focus: Ethics in the Face of Poverty	Selected study of major philosophical concern.	This course will help me to better understand poverty and its implications for ethical issues.

**One of the following:**

Course/Status	Course Description	Relevancy to Social Justice Major
BUSI 250 Principles of Statistics	A study of representations and interpretations of our contemporary world of data.	This course (and all other statistics courses in this category) will aid in any research pertaining to my major.
MATH 215 Statistical Analysis	An introduction to some of the mathematical and statistical methods used in the analysis of social and natural scientific phenomena with an emphasis on the interpretation of experimental and survey data.	See above.
PSYC290 Statistics	Descriptive and inferential techniques for analyzing research data.	See above.

**C) Theorizing Society and Social Justice**

**Four of the following:**

Course/Status	Course Description	Relevancy to Social Justice Major
SOCI 365 Picturing Society: Readings in Social Thought	Postmodern sociological theory is used to frame issues including community, power, identity, gender, globalization, knowledge production, and the social construction of space, time, and meaning.	This course will deepen what I have previously learned about race, poverty, and social justice by examining these topics in the postmodern theoretical framework.

<p>SOCI 490 Selected Topics</p>	<p>Concentrated study of important social issues. Content and approach will vary according to needs and interests of students and staff. Examples from previous classes include ethnic identity, family violence, population problems, and religious movements.</p>	<p>This course will be extremely useful because it will delve much more in-depth into specific topics that apply to my major.</p>
<p>SOCI 360 Social Change/Social Movements</p>	<p>This course opens up some major questions relating to the study of social change. It begins with a look at processes of social change in general, and then focuses on the sociological study of organized movements to produce (and resist) social change.</p>	<p>This class is one of my favorites in this section because it takes a serious look at the science of social change and what it takes to produce powerful movements.</p>
<p>POLI 353 Conflict Management and Resolution</p>	<p>This course will look closely at the institutions and processes through which societies, countries, regional organizations, and the international community deal with managing and resolving armed and unarmed conflicts, and confront post-conflict challenges. By examining specific cases in-depth, topics will include: peacekeeping operations; humanitarian relief operations; the extent and limits of diplomacy, mediation and negotiation; post-conflict nation-building; and the delicate balance between demands for post-conflict justice vs. reconciliation.</p>	<p>This course focuses on reconciliation and justice, key components of my social justice major.</p>
<p>PHIL 360 Social and Political Philosophy</p>	<p>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 the characteristics of a well ordered society.</p>	<p>This course will touch on economic injustice, the meaning of equality, and the characteristics of a well ordered society, all of which are important topics to be understood about social justice.</p>
<p>SOCI 390 Social Inequality and Identity</p> <p><b>Status: Currently enrolled for Fall 2009</b></p>	<p>How and why power, wealth and prestige are unequally distributed in terms of gender, race, and social class. Ideological justifications, the consequences for individuals and societies, and the personal and public strategies employed to address the problems associated with structural inequality are considered.</p>	<p>This course will help me to learn what the root causes of poverty, racism and inequality are, along with how each group perceives its own identity.</p>
<p>INCL 345 Issues of Peacebuilding (to be taken during</p>	<p>I do not have a description of this course, but it is included in a Hendrix-sponsored study abroad program focused on</p>	<p>This course will focus on peacebuilding efforts amidst war and social injustice. This will directly apply to "theorizing society and</p>

Rwanda and Uganda Study Abroad and Internship Program.)	“understanding poverty, development and transformation.” “All course credits will be awarded and an official transcript will be issued by Uganda Christian University, chartered and fully accredited by the President of the Republic of Uganda, through the Ministry of Higher Education and Sports, and the National Council for Higher Education.”	social justice” through focusing on problem solving and reconciliation.
SOCI 381 Social Context for Development (to be taken during Rwanda and Uganda Study Abroad and Internship Program.)	I do not have a description of this course, but it is included in a Hendrix-sponsored study abroad program focused on “understanding poverty, development and transformation.” “All course credits will be awarded and an official transcript will be issued by Uganda Christian University, chartered and fully accredited by the President of the Republic of Uganda, through the Ministry of Higher Education and Sports, and the National Council for Higher Education.”	This course will take an international look at social development, which fits well into this category of “theorizing society and social justice.” Along with International Human Rights, Issues of Peacebuilding and others, this course will aid in my knowledge of social justice on a global scale.


## Senior Capstone Experience

### One of the following:

Senior Capstone Experience	Relevancy to Social Justice Major
PHIL 4XX -- An Independent Study focused on the Philosophy of Poverty/Social Justice. The Independent Study will be directed by Dr. Chris Campolo, who is on my supervisory committee. He will guide me through the Independent Study and meet with me weekly to discuss what I have read/been working on. This independent study will serve as the Capstone for the major. <b>The grade for both the independent study and the capstone will be the same, and they will be determined by the faculty member conducting the independent study.</b>	The Independent Study will seek to wrap up all that I have learned from previous courses and go in-depth into a particular area pertaining to poverty and social justice.
SOCI 490 Selected Topics -- Concentrated study of important social issues. Content and approach will vary according to needs and interests of students and staff. Examples from previous classes include ethnic identity, family violence, population problems, and religious movements. <b>The grade I earn in this course will also be the grade I receive for my Senior Capstone Experience.</b>	If the topic of SOCI 490 is relevant to social justice, I will take this course and it will count as my Capstone Experience. This course will allow me to explore a particular topic in-depth in order to fully understand the topic and how it affects society.

Dr. Karen Oxner, Supervisory Committee Member Karen Oxner

Date 9/30/09

Dr. Chris Campolo, Supervisory Committee Member 

Date 9/30/09

Dr. Stella Capek, Chair of the Committee 

Date 10-2-09