

Linh Chuong
Class of 2013

Because inequality and inequity are steeped in our histories, our social institutions, and our minds; because they affect our families, our cultures, our politics, our economics, and our selves; because “-isms” are institutionalized and social categories intersect; social justice requires a holistic understanding of issues and identities. As an individual interested in Gender Studies and Social Justice, I am interested in pursuing an interdisciplinary major that will 1) foster social and cultural consciousness, ensuring a sensitivity to the needs of the demographic(s) I work with in the future, and 2) provide me with the skills to enfranchise underrepresented minorities.

I want to focus on three areas drawn from the humanities and social sciences: history, sociology/anthropology, politics, philosophy, gender studies, and psychology.

The first area is Gender, Race, and Sexuality. Although I will focus on gender, it is necessary to consider the interesting but complicated way social categories interact and create emergent properties of our identities. To neglect studying the way gender intersects with race/ethnicity, sexuality, and socioeconomic class is to neglect to recognize the real differences in needs of those groups; therefore, I want to take at least one course each on Race/Ethnicity and Sexuality and a few on Gender. Preferably these courses will be in different disciplines with discussions that integrate these topics.

The second area is on Society. I want to look at specific social issues and/or how they can be and have been resolved. Cross-Cultural Psychology is included because it looks at different societies and the ways cultural differences are expressed and different cultural perspectives on topics related to psychology. Because social issues are connected to a cultural context, I found it relevant.

Finally, the third area is Ethics. I will practice philosophical questioning to examine ethical issues. This will help me with my argumentation on controversial topics relating to social justice, gain foundational knowledge on ethical theories, and better understand what and how others view the ethical, just, and good.

In preparation for my Senior Capstone Experience I will take at least one research methods course. If the internship route is taken, then it must be approved in advance by a member of the supervisory committee who will serve as instructor of record for the course. The internship is a credit-only course.

Finally, my Senior Capstone Experience will be a thesis paper (PHIL 4XX or SOCI 4XX) pertinent to the major. The course will count for course credit and will be graded. The paper will be based on an independent research project or internship whose topic will be developed with the guidance of a thesis advisor. The grade for the Senior Capstone Experience is dependent on the grade of the thesis. The grade is determined by the supervisory committee/thesis advisor.

My proposed coursework is listed below. At least four classes will be taken at the 300 or 400 level.

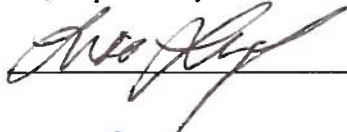
Major Requirements

Gender, Race, and Sexuality

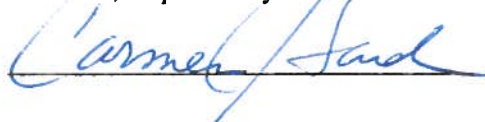
At least four of the following:

- ENG 250 Women and African Literature (completed Fall '10)

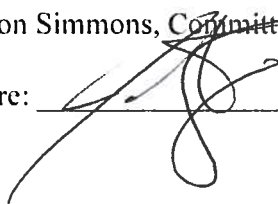
Dr. Lisa Leitz, Supervisory Committee Member

Signature:  Date: 1/29/11

Dr. Carmen Hardin, Supervisory Committee Member

Signature:  Date: 1/27/11

Dr. Aaron Simmons, Committee Chair

Signature:  Date: 1/27/2011

3/16/2011: Linh's committee has been updated to include Peg Falls-Corbitt; and for Lisa Leitz to chair the committee.