

Interdisciplinary Proposal: Self, Society, & Social Welfare  
Gwen Boone

**Justification:**

This proposed major is intended to provide the interdisciplinary tools necessary to understand contemporary issues surrounding the policy, practices, and services of Social Work. Since this field takes on many different dimensions, it is important to have a background and understanding of the many fields that go into Social Work. This major works to bring together the historical practices and policies that gave way to discrimination and inequality, the psychological impact that discrimination has on individuals, the political understanding of public policy and court rulings that shape social aid and intervention, as well as, a cross discipline understanding of the self and issues of identity and inequality.

Although many graduate Social Work programs accept a variety of majors, it is important to me that I complete this interdisciplinary study because I intended to focus primarily on issues pertaining to children and families. In the case of children it is important to understand how issues of identity and discrimination can impact their future so that I can be sure to center my work in a way that combats the negative impact that historical, political, and societal norms have on their chance for future success. This interdisciplinary major would also provide a deeper understanding of how historical practices and policies, current political decisions, and social understandings work together to create issues of injustice. With a deeper understanding, I would be provided a more enhanced view of how to change issues of injustice and provide the best social aid I can to children and families.

To provide the best cross discipline understanding, this major has been divided into four sections: Political Science and Social Justice, Historical and Contemporary Context, Identity and Inequality, and Research Methods. The first section (Political Science and Social Justice) contains courses that provide an in-depth understanding of how the U.S. government has handled issues of inequality and how legislation and court rulings impact groups of individuals differently. The second section (Historical and Contemporary Context) pulls from many different fields to provide me the opportunity to examine ways that Social Work has been applied in the past as well as ways that it can be applied in a contemporary context and the tools necessary to take part in administrative, hands-on, managerial, or organizational positions in the field. The third section (Identity and Inequality) draws from several social sciences to enhance my understanding of identity and its importance when looking at issues of inequality and how the two are related as well as tools to participate in efforts to reduce inequality and discrimination through diversity practices and policies. Lastly, the fourth section (Research Methods) adds an understanding of research methods and statistics in various fields which would be extremely important in a field as broad as Social Work so that I could accurately assess studies that are released or conduct my own in an effort to create or examine practices to reduce discrimination and inequality.

With this major I hope to gain a deeper understanding of the many fields that make up "Social Work." I believe that in completing this interdisciplinary major I will gain the tools necessary to take up whatever position in social services I desire and provide as much of a positive impact as I can in dismantling injustices in America.

**Course Requirements (13 credits, 4 of which will be at the 300 level or higher):****I. Political Science and Social Justice**

must complete 3 of the 5 listed

Course	Status
POLI 321 01 Am Constitutional Law: Fed System	
POLI 303 I1 Analyzing Humanitarianism	
POLI 322 01 Am Constitutional Law: Indiv Rights	
POLI 300 01 Feminist Political Thought	
PHIL 360 01 Social and Political Philosophy	

**II. Historical and Contemporary Application**

must complete 3 of the 5 listed

PSYC 276 01 Racial Justice and the Bible	enrolled
EDUC 400 Topics in Education Social Justice	
PSYC 367 01 Psychology and Law	
PHIL 490 S1 Topics: Poverty Studies	
ANTH 310 01 Anthropology and Education	enrolled

**III. Identity and Inequality**

must complete 3 of the 4 listed

PSYC 255 01 Stereotyping and prejudice	completed
SOCI 270 01 Race and Ethnicity	enrolled
PSYC 230 02 Social Psychology	enrolled
RELI 317 01 Religion and Politics	enrolled

**IV. Research Methods**

must complete all listed

PSYC 290 01 Statistics	enrolled
PSYC 295 01 Research Methods (w/Lab)	enrolled
SOCI 497 Advanced Research & Writing	

**V. Capstone**

For my senior capstone experience I will take Advanced Research and Writing (Sociology 497 01). I will conduct an independent research project on a topic of my choice that addresses issues of inequality and social welfare through an interdisciplinary lens. While this will be done through the Sociology class, I will present my project to the professor of that course as well as the members of my interdisciplinary committee.

#### VI. Internship

The final component of this interdisciplinary major would be an internship that addresses social welfare for children and families. This internship will be completed for academic credit to complete the 13 credits for this proposal.

Faculty Advisor Committee:

Dr. Jay Barth, committee member:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

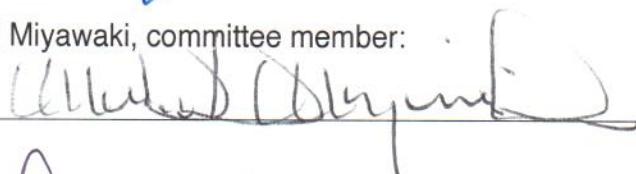


Date: \_\_\_\_\_

9/17/18

Dr. Micheal Miyawaki, committee member:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

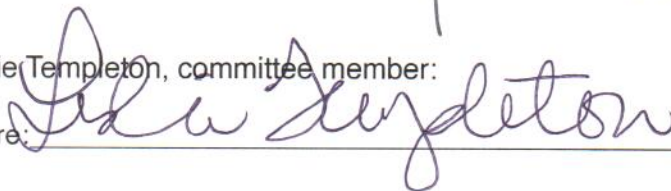


Date: \_\_\_\_\_

9/14/18

Dr. Leslie Templeton, committee member:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

9.13.18