

# JUSTICE STUDIES COURSES

## JUST 100. Justice Studies Proseminar

This course is designed to introduce students to the Justice Studies major by focusing on academic and career advisement. Topics will include: how to select a meaningful program of study, defining and

pursuing advanced research projects, identifying and arranging internships, finding and using literature in justice related academic fields, and anticipating a career in justice related fields. Prerequisites: JUST 200 and admission to the Justice Studies major. 1 credit.



## JUST 200. Introduction to Justice Studies

This course offers students an introduction to the field of justice studies. It includes an examination of moral, philosophical and political definitions of justice and injustice and a history of their development; the distinctions and commonalities between various "kinds" of justice, e.g., criminal social, environmental; a discussion of classic and contemporary theorists and practitioners of justice and their impact on societal understanding of the concepts of justice and injustice. Prerequisites: Declaration of Justice-preparation. 3 credits.

## JUST 201. Justice Research Methods

This course provides students with the tools necessary for conducting independent research in the area of Justice Studies. Both quantitative and qualitative methods are covered. A term project, in which the skills covered in the course are applied, is a significant part of the class. Prerequisites: JUST 200 and a statistics course (e.g., Math 220). 3 credits.

## JUST 210. Crime and Criminal Justice.

This course provides an introduction to the nature of the crime problem in the United States, including patterns of victimization and offending and the ways in which the criminal justice system responds to these behaviors. Prerequisites: JUST 200 and admission to the major. 3 credits.

## JUST 212. Theories of Crime and Criminal Justice.

This course provides an in-depth exploration of theoretical perspectives pertaining to the two central realms of criminological inquiry: crime and response to crime (criminal justice). Both classic and contemporary perspectives are examined. The course will examine why people commit crime, why crime occurs, why it differs across groups and the objective underlying crime control policy. Prerequisite: JUST 200. 3 credits



## JUST/PUAD 215. Introduction to Criminal Justice

An introduction to the development of the American criminal justice system from early English beginnings to the present in its three dimensions: police, courts, and corrections. 3 credits.

## JUST 221. Social Justice Theories.

This course serves as a theoretical introduction to the social justice track of the justice studies major. It includes a review of the general content of selected

social sciences with emphasis on primary foci, theoretical concepts and perspectives guiding each disciplinary approach. Special focus will be given to Western civilization and United States-specific understandings of social justice. Prerequisite: JUST 200. 3 credits.

## JUST 223. Social Justice Interventions and Policies.

This class provides a review of the general structures of American social justice interventions and policies including governmental, corporate and not-for-profit organizations. Emphasis will be placed on macro-structures such as entitlement programs and micro-structures such as neighborhood and grassroots organizations. Prerequisite: JUST 200. 3 credits.

## JUST 235. Justice in the Global Community

A survey of different definitions of justice relating to the operation and development of a global community in international affairs. Prerequisite: JUST 200 or permission of instructor. 3 credits.

## JUST/PSYC 255. Abnormal Psychology for Law Enforcement Personnel

This course for students interested in becoming law enforcement professionals critically examines psychological normality and abnormality. The course focuses on description and causes of abnormal behavior likely to be encountered by law enforcement professionals, and on intervention options for police officers. May not be taken by psychology majors, or students who have completed PSYC 250 OR PSYC 335. Prerequisite: GPSYC 101 and JUST 200. 3 credits.

## JUST 300. Perspectives on Comparative Justice

This course provides an overview of the various systems of justice existent in different cultures throughout the globe. The emphasis here is on legal systems and the ways in which they are used to promote - or not promote - justice. The course also includes a discussion of such topics as war, peace, terrorism, political and social oppression, and the ways in which these phenomena are either created by or ameliorated by justice systems. Prerequisite: JUST 200 and admission to the major. 3 credits.



## JUST 301. Special Topics

### in Justice Studies

This course provides an examination of topics which are of current interest in the field of Justice Studies. The class may be repeated for credit when course content changes. Prerequisite: JUST 200 and admission to the major. 3 credits.

## JUST/PSYC 314. Police Psychology

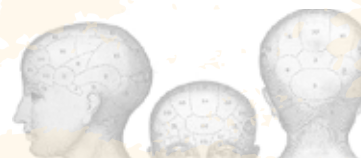
This course explores the role of psychology in various aspects of police work, and examines how psychological research and methods can assist police departments and police officers in reaching law-enforcement goals. Prerequisite: GPSYC 101 and JUST 200. 3 credits.

## JUST/PSYC 316. Human Development and Crime

This course examines how psychological research and theory shed light on the development of criminal careers, the factors that protect children and adolescents from becoming criminals, how being a victim of crime influences well-being, and the efficacy of rehabilitation. Special attention will be paid to the knowledge base on delinquency and childhood/adolescent victimization. Prerequisite: GPSYC 101. 3 credits.

## JUST 322. Understanding Violence.

This course examines violence in its many forms and provides a theoretical and conceptual foundation for understanding what it is, why it happens, and how it might be prevented or diminished. Structural, institutional and interpersonal forms of violence are examined as are theoretical perspectives focusing on the individual, socio-structural and cultural levels of explanation. 3 credits.



### JUST 323. Comparative Criminal Justice.

A comparative study of criminal justice systems derived from the major world legal systems. The relevant background factors, government, laws, law enforcement, courts, corrections, youthful offenders are examined in each representative country studied. Multinational criminal justice organizations and special issues are addressed. 3 credits.

### JUST 324 Death Penalty

This course provides students with a broad survey of the death penalty as a penal sanction and the controversies and issues which surround it. Key topical areas covered are history and foundations, legal landscape, execution and death penalty processes, contemporary issues including innocence, cost, discrimination and deterrence, and perspectives and voices surrounding the death penalty.

### JUST/SOCI 326. Victimology

This course provides an overview of various perspectives (social, psychology, legal, etc.) on the experience of victimization. Explanations of the phenomenon are discussed in the context of responses to various types of victimization. 3 credits.



### JUST 327. Criminal Law.

Study of substantive criminal law including common law sources and elements of various criminal offenses, justifications and defenses. 3 credits

### JUST/POSC 331. Human Rights in Theory and Practice.

This course will explore the nature and value of human rights by investigating some major debates over their status and meaning and by examining some of the ways people have tried to secure human rights in practice. *Prerequisites: JUST, POSC and INTA majors only. For JUST majors, the completion of JUST 200 is a prerequisite.* 3 credits.



### JUST 341 Gender and Justice

This course is an interdisciplinary examination of the causes, structure and consequences of gender oppression. Consistent with the social justice track of the major, notions of fairness, justice and equality with respect to gendered social, political and economic relations will be examined. 3 credits.

### JUST/POSC 372. Ethics and International Politics.

This course investigates the significance of ethical questions in the theory and practice of contemporary international politics, introducing a variety of normative approaches that shape the issues of peace and conflict, morality and justice in global affairs. Practical case studies will also be used to address issues of policy relevance, with particular attention paid to the American experience.

### JUST/POSC 392. Peace Studies

A study of the evolution, theory and practice of peace studies. The course focuses on how we wage and resolve conflict, how we affect social change, and how we provide for security through nonviolent means. 3 credits.



### JUST 400. Senior Seminar in Justice Studies

This is the capstone course for the Justice Studies major. Students are expected to enter JUST 400 with a proposed area of study, and will spend the semester in developing a thesis. Class discussion and review of individual projects along with oral presentation of work are integral parts of the course. Students are expected to produce a piece of original scholarship related to their study in the major. *Prerequisites: JUST 200, JUST 201, admission to the major and senior standing.* 3 credits.

### JUST 401. Internship in Justice Studies

This course allows students to receive academic credit for work experienced in an agency or organization related to the Justice Studies major. Students should consult the Justice Studies director for assistance in arranging approved internships. *Prerequisite: JUST 200, JUST 201.* Successful completion of four additional JS courses. 4 credits.

### JUST 402. Advanced Research in Justice Studies

This course is designed to give students a context in which to pursue advanced research in a Justice Studies context. It is especially appropriate for students interested in graduate study in the field. *Prerequisite: JUST 200, JUST 201.* Successful completion of four additional JS courses. 3 credits.

## JUSTICE STUDIES MAJOR JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

Moody Hall 213 MSC 1205  
Harrisonburg, VA 22807  
(540) 568-7124

(540) 568-2977 fax  
[www.jmu.edu/justicestudies](http://www.jmu.edu/justicestudies)  
[justicestudies@jmu.edu](mailto:justicestudies@jmu.edu)

JAMES  
MADISON  
UNIVERSITY

# JUSTICE STUDIES MAJOR



## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

[WWW.JMU.EDU/JUSTICESTUDIES](http://WWW.JMU.EDU/JUSTICESTUDIES)