The social sciences, which include justice studies, are focused on understanding people and their behaviors. Justice Studies seeks to provide an understanding of those human behaviors that society has defined as defiant, or criminal, and how we respond to those behaviors. This would include the exploration of those institutions that society has created to prevent, control and punish behaviors. Justice Studies also examines moral, philosophical, and political definitions of justice and injustice and a history of their development. Study of distinctions and commonalities between various kinds of justice, e.g., criminal, social, global and environmental is also essential to understanding justice studies.

Core Courses

JUST 100 Proseminar (1 Credit)
JUST 200 Introduction to Justice Studies (3)
JUST 399 Justice Research Methods (3)
JUST 300 Perspectives on Comparative Justice Systems (3)
JUST 400 Senior Seminars in Justice Studies (3)

Choose one of the following (which is not required for your track):

JUST 210 Introduction to Crime and Criminal Justice
JUST 212 Theories of Crime and Criminal Justice
JUST 221 Social Justice Theories
JUST 223 Social Justice Interventions and Policies
JUST 235 Justice in the Global Community

TOTAL 17 Credits

INTRODUCTION

TRACK A

Crime and Criminology

In the Crime and Criminology track, students focus attention on the nature, causes and solutions for the crime problem at the national level. While the primary focus is on the United States, comparisons are also made to other countries. It would be appropriate to choose this track for those interested in careers in criminal justice policy making and research, graduate study in the justice field, law enforcement, the courts (including the practice of criminal law), or corrections.

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.

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 the 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 objectives underlying crime control policy.

TRACK B

Global Justice

The Global Justice & Policy Track brings normative concerns to bear in its examination of a variety of global issues, including international political and economic relations, international law, the global environment, human rights, war and peace, and the encounter between cultures. Across the many disciplines embraced by this track, the theme of achieving justice - in its plurality of manifestations - serves as a unifying element. Students enrolled in this track will find careers in government service, law, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations.

POSC 230 International Relations

A survey of the field of international relations including consideration of the elements of national power, foreign policy, diplomacy, propaganda, foreign aid, war, international law and international organization.

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.
Social Justice
This track focuses on local aspects of justice; that is, how individuals, families, organizations, and communities can engage in justice development, maintenance, and reform. This includes restorative justice, alternative dispute resolution, victim support, abuse prevention, and community organizing. Career paths include “helping” careers devoted to eliminating the causes and consequences of crime. This track focuses on the nature and needs of victims of crimes and injustice, on the ways in which communities are affected by illegal and unjust behaviors and on ways in which victims (and some classes of offenders, especially children) can be helped.

JUST 221 Social Justice Theories
The 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.

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 macrostructures such as entitlement programs and micro-structures such as neighborhood and grassroots organizations.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE MINOR

Justice Studies also administers the Criminal Justice Minor. The interdisciplinary minor in criminal justice is designed for students who are preparing for careers in law enforcement, corrections, judicial administration or other areas related to the study or management of crime, either directly upon graduation or after further graduate training. The requirement for a minor in criminal justice is 21 credit hours.

Justice Studies majors may only double count two courses from the major in the criminal justice minor.

A maximum of two courses may be transferred into the criminal justice minor from other institutions. No transfer credit will be given for any course offered at the 300 or 400 level.

The criminal justice minor is a high demand program. Periodically waiting lists for entrance are established. Juniors and Seniors should consult with advisors in the Justice Studies Department in considering entering or applying for admission to it.

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