

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

JUSTICE STUDIES

Faculty

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Program Goals

- To develop effective verbal and written communication skills
- To develop, critique, and conduct research
- To demonstrate collaborative problem solving skills
- To develop critical thinking skills
- To develop practices of global responsibility

Objectives

The Westminster Justice Studies program treats justice as a broad category of social and ethical problems that includes issues relating to crime and justice, economic and social justice, community rights, environmental justice and global justice. Accordingly, students who choose a major in Justice Studies are encouraged to take interdisciplinary coursework that exposes them to different ways of thinking about justice. This includes, but is not limited to, coursework in fields such as Economics, English, Gender Studies, Philosophy, and Political Science that helps students understand the nature of justice and why individuals and institutions may or may not behave in a just manner. Justice Studies majors are also required to engage in independent research and experiential learning activities such as internships. The Justice Studies minor affords students an opportunity to view justice through broad, interdisciplinary lenses.

Program Requirements

The Justice Studies program offers a Bachelor of Science in Justice Studies as an academic major and provides for an academic minor in Justice Studies. The Justice Studies academic major requires completion of 58 semester hours of credit selected from Justice Studies' coursework and related classes in the social sciences and selected other coursework. Thirty-two of those hours must be in Justice Studies and related courses numbered 300 or above. Students must maintain a cumulative 2.5 GPA or better in the academic major and minor.

Students must meet the university-wide graduation requirements in addition to the Justice Studies major:

- 124 total hours
- 30 upper division hours
- WCore or Honors College requirements

Justice Studies Major

| Requirement Description | Credit Hours | Prerequisites |
|---|--------------|---------------|
| I. World Language Requirement | 8 | |
| Justice Studies majors must complete eight credit hours in a single world language. | | |
| II. Lower Division Courses | 10 | |
| JUST 109 Power and Social Change | 4 | |
| JUST 221 Community Justice | 3 | |
| PLSC 203 Courts, Law, and Social Justice | 3 | |
| III. Upper Division Courses | 20 | |
| The following classes are required: | | |
| JUST 324 Gender, Work, and Justice | 4 | |
| JUST 325 Justice in Everyday Life | 4 | |
| PLSC 355 Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties | 4 | |
| PLSC 390 Research Methods | 4 | |
| JUST 490 Senior Capstone | 4 | |
| IV. Electives | 15-16 | |

| Requirement Description | Credit Hours | Prerequisites |
|--|--------------|---------------|
| Take fifteen-sixteen credits; minimum ten credits as upper division. | | |
| COMM 360 Race, Gender, Class, & Media | 4 | |
| COMM 365 Intercultural & Global Communication | 4 | |
| EDUC 373 Juvenile Justice | 3 | |
| EDUC 375 Indigenous Knowledges & Lifeways | 4 | |
| ENVI 353 Environmental Movements | 4 | |
| ENVI 363 Gender & the Environment | 4 | |
| GNDR 101 Gender, Sex, & Identity | 4 | |
| HIST 307 Comparative Revolutions | 4 | |
| HIST 327 History of the Holocaust | 4 | |
| JUST 300 Special Topics | 1-4 | |
| JUST 440 Internship | 1-4 | |
| LMW 223 Critical Theory | 4 | |
| LMW 335 Englishes of the World | 4 | |
| PHIL 129 Race, Power & Privilege | 4 | |
| PHIL 209 Poverty & Global Justice | 3 | |
| PHIL 365 Economic Justice | 4 | |
| PLSC 316 Issues in Global Politics | 4 | |
| PSYC 335 Psychology of Women | 4 | |
| SOC 313 Social Theory | 4 | |
| SOC 350 Gender in Society | 4 | |
| WCSBS 220 Social Justice by the Numbers | 4 | |
| Total Hours for the Justice Studies Major | 53-54 | |

Recommended Plan of Study for Justice Studies

| | Fall Semester | Spring Semester |
|--------|---|--|
| Year 1 | JUST 109 Language I WCore Courses | JUST 221 PLSC 203 Language II WCore Courses |
| Year 2 | Major Elective WCore Courses | JUST 324, 325, or PLSC 355 WCore Courses |
| Year 3 | Major Elective | JUST 324, 325, or PLSC 355 Major Elective |
| Year 4 | PLSC 390 Major Elective | JUST 324, 325, or PLSC 355 JUST 490 |

Justice Studies Minor

To fulfill the requirements for an academic minor in Justice Studies, students must complete a minimum of 20 semester hours in Justice Studies or related coursework. Twelve of these hours must be in coursework numbered 300 or above.

| Requirement Description | Credit Hours | Prerequisites |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| I. Required Courses | 14 | |
| JUST 109 Power and Social Change | 4 | |

| Requirement Description | Credit Hours | Prerequisites |
|--|---------------------|----------------------|
| JUST 221 Community Justice | 3 | |
| JUST 325 Justice in Everyday Life | 4 | |
| PLSC 203 Courts, Law, & Social Justice | 3 | |
| II. Elective Courses | 8 | |
| Eight additional hours of 300 or 400 level JUST or PLSC coursework | | |
| Total Hours for the Justice Studies Minor | 22 | |