Global Politics and Societies

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINOR

PROFESSORS: Edward A. Lynch (political science), Jong Oh Ra (political science, on leave short and spring terms), Darla Schumm (religious studies; chair, global politics and societies)
ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS: Jon D. Bohland (international studies and political science) Susan L. Thomas (political science, gender and women’s studies)
VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR: Tanya Schwarz (political science)
VISITING LECTURERS: Kelly Derrick (adjunct, religious studies), Kristin Richardson (sociology)

The Global Politics and Societies (GPS) department includes four separate major programs of study in sociology, religious studies, political science, and international studies and one minor program of study in social justice. Each of the programs uses an interdisciplinary approach with some shared courses and collaborative teaching based on the common research and teaching interests of faculty members. The social justice minor challenges students to think about power, inequality, diversity, and justice in local, national, and global contexts. For information about major programs of study, see requirements listed under the subject area of the major.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MINOR IN SOCIAL JUSTICE:
5 courses (20 credits)

- GPS 121: Foundations of Social Justice (4)
- Four additional courses from the list of affiliated courses below. (16)
  Each of the four elective courses should be from a different discipline. Only one course can be at the 100-level and one course must be at the 300-level.

AFFILIATED COURSES:
- ANTH/ES/GWS 219: Food, Culture, and Social Justice
- ANTH/GWS 312: Women & Social Movements Across the Globe
- COMM 270: Intercultural Communication
- COMM 315: Peace, Conflict and Media
- COMM 322: Public Relations Principles
- COMM/INTL 380: Global Communication and Media
- ENG 320: Immigrant Literature
- ENG/GWS 345: Arab Women Writers
- ENG 346: Arab American Literature
- ES/INTL 220/POLS 221: Globalization and Local Responses
- ES/POLS 235: Feeding Frenzy – Global Food Politics, Security, and Sustainability
- ES/INTL 304: Geography of the Global Environment
- GWS/POLS 208: Gender, Ethnicity, and Class
- GWS/POLS 213: Globalization and Poverty
- GWS/POLS 218: Global Gayz – The Lesbian and Gay Movement for Civil Rights
- GWS/REL 318: Sexual Ethics
- GWS/REL 362: Spiritual Activism
- HIST 221: Civil Rights Movement in America
- HIST 266S: Dissent and Reform in American History
- INTL/POLS 332: Currents of Marxist Thought
- POLS 101: American Government
- POLS 104: Political Theory
- POLS 118: Controversial Issues in American Politics
- POLS 131: Introduction to Feminist Political Thought
- POLS 214: Media and Politics
- POLS 225: Conquest
- POLS 226: International Law
- POLS 310: Seminar in American Government
- POLS 311: Controversial Issues in American Politics
- POLS 345: American Voting Behavior
- POLS 363: Constitutional Law
- REL 140: Disability, Religion, and Ethics
- REL 126: Introduction to Religion in a Global Context
- SOC 234: Social Problems
- SOC 260: Race, Class, and Gender – A Reflexive Approach

COURSES IN GLOBAL POLITICS AND SOCIETIES:

**GPS 121: FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE (4)  Schumm**
This course will introduce students to the theoretical and historical foundations of many contemporary movements primarily concerned with some aspect of social justice. The class will also explore links and contrasts between important bodies of thought including but not limited to: critical race theory, disability studies, feminism, queer and trans* studies, postcolonial theories, indigenous studies, and neo-Marxism. Open to first year students. No prerequisite. Offered Term 1. (f, w, x, MOD)

**GPS 214: QUALITATIVE METHODS (4)  Richardson**
This course will emphasize tools in the qualitative social scientist's research toolkit. Students will gain in-depth understanding of and hands on training with interviewing, fieldwork, focus groups, unobtrusive methods, content analysis, case studies, auto-ethnography, and narrative analysis. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission. Offered Term 2.

**GPS 216: RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES (4)  Schwarz**
Study of the nature, requirements, and procedures in the social sciences with emphasis on the applied skill in critical analysis of published scholarly works. Epistemological topics in concept formation, hypothesis generation, and theory construction. Corequisite: GPS 216L or permission. Offered Term 2. (w, x, SCI: If taken with 216L).

**GPS 216L: LABORATORY FOR RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES (2)  Schwarz**
This course explores varieties of social science research, both quantitative and qualitative: experiments, field experiments, sample surveys with emphasis on data collection, organization and processing, statistical analysis, participant observation, narrative analysis, interview techniques, unobtrusive measures, focus groups, and research write-up. Prerequisite: q. Corequisite: GPS 216 or permission. Offered Term 2. (w, x, Q, SCI)

**GPS 350: SPECIAL TOPIC: SMALL CITIES STUDIO (4)  Bohland**
This course is the first class taught as part of a new joint program with Virginia Tech focused on small cities. It will include an instructor and students from Virginia Tech connected through Skype or other distance learning platforms. The course is cross-campus undergraduate studio that focuses on the unique needs and opportunities of smaller cities. Undergraduate students will work under faculty supervision on behalf of Co-Lab/City Works XPO of Roanoke and deliver actionable research project. In the studio model, students are expected to design and shape the implementation of the project. The experience is designed to provide a sheltered work experience for advanced students and actionable solutions for the community partners with whom the students work. Prerequisite: Instructor permission. Offered Term 2.

**GPS 470: SENIOR SEMINAR (2)  Schumm**
This course will focus on the transition from undergraduate work to the “real world.” Students will reflect on the culmination of their learning in their respective majors and assess their work skills and interests. Emphasis will be placed on career planning and graduate and professional school preparation. Offered Term 1.

**GPS 480: SENIOR THESIS (4)  Bohland**
Students will write an integrative thesis, to be co-directed by faculty from the GPS department. The thesis will be written during the fall semester of the senior year. Offered Term 1.