

SCHOOL OF JUSTICE STUDIES

# SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDIES

BACHELOR'S DEGREE / MINOR



## OVERVIEW

The Social Justice Studies program explores issues of inequality, injustice, and social change. The program is grounded in rigorous and interdisciplinary study as well as hands-on experience and the opportunity to connect classroom learning with real world social activism. With this strong commitment to interdisciplinary and applied study, the major educates students to be fluent in the rich histories, theories and studies of injustice and efforts for social change. The Social Justice Studies program encourages creative, critical and systematic analysis, with the goal of preparing students to live and work meaningfully in the world through principled commitment to making it better for all.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Community Activist

Conflict Resolutions Specialist

Environmental Advocate

Human Relations Specialist

Public Policy Analyst

Victim Advocacy &  
Child Protective Services

Juvenile Justice

Attorney

Youth Services

Public Defender Services

Rape Crisis

Battered Women's Shelters

Drug Treatment

Public Interest Groups  
(environmental crime and issues, human  
trafficking, community development)

# SOCIAL JUSTICE

## BACHELOR'S DEGREE

**Total Curriculum Requirements:** 120 Hours  
**37 hrs** - Gen Ed. / Univ. Requirements  
**18 hrs** - Core Courses (Listed below)  
**15 hrs** - Electives (upper division)  
**12 hrs** - Supporting Courses  
**38 hrs** - Free Electives

## MINOR

**Total Curriculum Requirements:** 18 Hours  
**9 hrs** - Core Requirements  
SJS 101, 250S, 301, or 313  
**9 hrs** - Electives (SJS or other courses in consultation with faculty coordinator and advisor).

## CORE COURSES

### SJS 101 - Understanding Social Justice and Human Struggle

Explores the concepts of justice, conflict and social change and examines the ways in which political, economic, media, education, and other institutions create challenges for justice. It also examines efforts to resist existing structural and institutional arrangements and encourages social change to better meet human needs.

### SJS 250S - Social Justice Studies

Students will engage in classroom and service activities to explore, critique, and apply the fundamental concepts of justice, conflict, and social change. Through experiential learning and reflective writing, students will begin integrating ideas and perspectives, formulating personal ideologies, and developing an enhanced sense of civic responsibility.

### SJS 301 - Theories of Social Justice

Examines social theories of justice, conflict and social change. This includes engagement with Marxist, Postcolonial, Postmodern, Poststructuralist, Critical Race, Feminist, and Queer theories. As the SJS major is dedicated to foundations in and accountability to grassroots knowledge and power, this course will consistently locate theory in concrete examples.

### SJS 313 - Mobilizing Social Justice

Examines the broad concept of social change through explorations of different social movements, individual actors, and various policies. The course considers strategies for change including activism, advocacy, assistance, and community organizing and looks at change on a continuum of levels, from grassroots campaigns to international diplomacy and policy work.

### SJS 396 - Researching and Writing for Change

Examines the mutual importance and intertwined nature of social research and writing in struggles for social change and justice. The course will consider the importance of quantitative and qualitative research and diverse writing formats such as academic scholarship, journalism, polemics, cultural critique, advocacy, and grant writing in addressing injustice and conflict.

### SJS 450S - Learning through Civic Engagement

Working collaboratively with faculty, peers, and/or community representatives, students will analyze a social problem. They will enhance competencies essential to helping, advocacy, community organization and activist roles necessary for social change. Students will prepare written and oral presentations that reflect their understanding of justice, conflict, and social change.

## ELECTIVES

Choose from any of the electives listed below:

**SJS 322** Social Justice & Media  
**SJS 325** Social Justice & Film  
**SJS 401** Conflict, Resistance, and Nonviolent Struggle  
**SJS 467** States of Violence  
**SJS 470** Critical Carceral Studies  
**SJS 480** Ethnography for Social Change  
**SJS 490** Identity, Culture and Power

Students may also choose elective courses from Criminal Justice (CRJ), Police Studies (PLS), or other departments/programs in consultation with the faculty coordinator and advisor.

Information based on EKU's 2021/2022 course catalog and is subject to change.



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