

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

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Minor in Civic Engagement and Social Justice (18 credit hours)

The minor in Civic Engagement and Social Justice is an interdisciplinary program open to all students who want to make a positive difference in the world. The civic-minded individual is one with the moral conviction that all citizens have the inherent responsibility to identify and address issues of public concern. Engaged citizenship requires knowledge and understanding of societal problems, willingness to utilize one's skills in service to society and commitment to building strong communities. This program explores issues of social justice, economic opportunity, access to resources and cross-cultural understanding, with an emphasis on promoting the quality of life for all members of the community. Through interdisciplinary study and service, students will become proactive citizens who find creative and practical solutions to local, national and global problems.

Program Objectives

1. Gain knowledge and understanding of the theoretical models of civic engagement and community development.
2. Define and analyze issues of social justice and learn how to address these issues through active citizenship.
3. Develop skills in promoting social justice through inquiry, critical thinking, problem solving, and cultural competency.
4. Engage in service with established community partners for the purpose of supporting and advancing program development.

Program Requirements

1. Core requirements: IDST 250, ENGL 454W and IDST 470 (9 credit hours).
2. One course from Global Perspectives (3 credit hours).
3. Two courses from the list of approved electives (6 credit hours). Courses must come from two different disciplines.
4. Certain study abroad seminars, independent studies and special topics courses may count toward an elective requirement as pre-approved by the program director.
5. Graduation with Service Distinction.

Core

IDST 250	Introduction to Civic Engagement and Social Justice
ENGL 454	WI: Writing for Civic Engagement
IDST 470	Seminar in Civic Engagement & Social Justice

Global Perspectives

ANTH/SOCL 330	Language and Culture
COMM 340	Intercultural Communication
LDSP 330	Cross Cultural Leadership
MLAN 308	Cross-Cultural Awareness
SOCL 201	Globalization and Society

Electives

ANTH/SOCL 309	The Refugee Experience
COMM 201	Public Speaking
COMM 330	Communicating Gender, Race, and Class
COMM 341	Rhetoric and Social Movements
CRIM/ SOCL 365	Social Change and Policy
ECON 351	Urban Economics
HIST 341	The Long Civil Rights Movement
LDSP 338	Leading Adaptive Change
LDSP 380	Women and Leadership
MLAN 311	Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
MUSC 261	Opera Workshop
PHIL 304	Ethics and Current Value Questions
PHIL 315	Philosophy of Gender
POLS 204	Hate Crime Realities and Consequences
POLS 307	Civil Liberties
PSYC 304	Social Psychology
PSYC 340	Adult Development and Aging
RSTD 210	Interfaith Studies
SOCL 304	Socialization and Society
SOCL 306	Social Psychology
SOCL 316	Racial and Ethnic Relations
SOWK 201	Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare
SPAN 330	Spanish in the Community

THE CURRICULUM IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

IDST 250. Introduction to Civic Engagement and Social Justice (3-3-0)

This interdisciplinary course will introduce students to the theory and praxis of civic and community engagement while exploring foundational principles of social justice. It will explore the differing and sometimes competing notions of community, civic engagement, and social justice at a local, state, national and global level. In this class, we will meet with local community representatives, explore the social environment, and conduct site visits with local community organizations. Through this course, you will be able to explore what it means to be an active and engaged citizen.

IDST 470. Seminar in Civic Engagement and Social Justice (3-0-3)

Prerequisites: IDST 250.

This capstone course draws on coursework and experiential learning in the minor. Students will: identify a community need; develop a partnership with a community agency which has a global, national or community mission and provide semester long service hours; create a project proposal of research and innovative action; and complete and present a reflective paper on the project. This service-learning course requires a minimum of 40 service hours and counts for 40 hours toward Service Distinction.