Social Justice Courses (Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies) (SJUS)

This is a list of all social justice courses. For more information, see Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies.

SJUS:1001 Introduction to Social Justice 3 s.h.
Introduction to principles and theories of social justice; students examine the history of influential social movements in the United States and the world in the last century; how intersectionality can create tensions between and among members of social movements; how race, class, gender, age, geography, and our bodies play a role in the application of theories of social justice. Same as GWSS:1003.

The high ideals of America’s founding documents assert that “All men are created equal” with the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; however, these ideals have been compromised and contested throughout the nation’s history—certain groups have been less equal in the eyes of the law and society than others; students explore and critically engage how understandings of race and ethnicity have informed notions of identity, citizenship, and rights as experienced by Native Americans, African Americans, Asians, European immigrants, Hispanics, and whites. Same as GWSS:2200.

SJUS:2250 The History of Social Justice Movements 3 s.h.
History of contemporary social movements in the U.S. and how these movements have directly affected policies related to environment, food, reproductive justice, civil rights, immigration, labor, race, and gender; students read, explore, discuss, and write about the history of contemporary social movements in the U.S. that had lasting effects on policies related to environment, agriculture, health, reproductive justice, civil rights, labor, race, gender, and immigration; exploration of multiple modes of representation and resistance including protests, boycotts, strikes, music, art, writing, riots, civil disobedience, theater, poetry, dance, and poetry. Same as GWSS:2250, HIST:2250.

SJUS:2500 Love, War, Activism: Stories About Women from Across the World 3 s.h.
Literary and cinematic representations of gender in works by authors and directors from the Global South; development of historical and cultural lines of inquiry to examine artistic representations of love, sexuality, friendship, and parenting; shifts in gender identities and relations that result from social and political crises. English majors and English and Creative Writing majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Transnational Literature and Postcolonial Studies. PERIOD: 20th/21st-Century Literature. Same as ENGL:2570, GWSS:2500.

SJUS:2571 Visualizing Human Rights 3 s.h.
Cinematic representations of human rights issues in films by directors from the Global South; development of historical and cultural lines of inquiry to examine artistic representations of race relations in colonial and postcolonial societies; public health issues, specifically women’s and children’s rights in context of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. English majors and English and Creative Writing majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Transnational Literature and Postcolonial Studies. PERIOD: 20th/21st-Century Literature. Same as ENGL:2571, GWSS:2571.

SJUS:3130 Blacks and Jews: History, Imagination, and Cultural Interactions 3 s.h.
Exploration of relationship between blacks and Jews in the United States—often thought of as natural allies in the fight for social justice—from a historical and cultural perspective; blacks and Jews as individual groups and as groups in interaction with one another within the dominant Anglo-Christian society as they struggled for inclusion and equity; emphasis on examination of these two minority groups, each of which has played a significant role in shaping American culture and identity, from the vantage point of key historical moments in which their interests converged as well as diverged.

SJUS:3138 Writing to Change the World 3 s.h.
Writers who can frame questions, weigh competing perspectives, structure an argument, and write with clarity and respect for diverse audiences as powerful agents for change; writers who have inspired human rights movements; public forms of writing with local organizations whose missions are shaped by social attitudes to gender and sexuality; how language, imagery, popular culture, and history affect perceptions of gender and sexuality; conducting research and evaluation of evidence; best practices for communicating and collaborating; skills needed to be an effective advocate. Prerequisites: RHET:1030 or RHET:1040 or RHET:1060. Same as GWSS:3138, RHET:3138.

SJUS:3250 Literature and Social Justice 3 s.h.
How literature from various time periods, both American and global, has enacted, represented, depicted, or encouraged forms and acts of social justice; students study various genres (e.g., essay, poem, autobiography, short story, fiction) and learn how literature has been used to conceptualize social justice, address national and global inequities, and take up complex and intersecting issues of power and privilege.

SJUS:3400 Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies Advocacy and Engagement Colloquium 1-3 s.h.
How to capitalize on volunteer experience; how experience can lead to careers in health care, law, advocacy, social work, social justice, education; issues related to domestic violence, community education, sexual assault; health care for women, youth, and LGBTQ populations; health care inequities, social justice; field journal. Recommendations: active volunteer work at feminist-centered organizations in Iowa, completion of 40-hour training, plan to serve organization for up to ten or more hours each month, and attendance at regularly scheduled volunteer meetings. Same as GWSS:3400.

SJUS:3459 Making Change, Making History: Iowa’s Black Activists and Digital History 3 s.h.
From the 1830s through the end of the 19th century, African Americans formed local, state, and national meetings called “Colored Conventions,” where they strategized about how to achieve social justice; students explore Iowa’s connections to this history of political activism. Same as GWSS:3459, HIST:3259.
SJUS:3510 Topics in Social Justice 3 s.h.
Students deep dive into a specific topic that invites research and debate about the ways cultures understand social justice—human rights in relation to gender and sexuality, race and ethnicity, generations, class, religion, species, and environment.

SJUS:3550 Social Justice, Religion, and Spirituality: Faith and Belief Ignited 3 s.h.
Examination of some distinctively American traditions of religion, spirituality, and social justice, including women and men who have channeled their religio-spiritual beliefs into social justice in their communities; historical and anthropological focus; examination of U.S. movements (e.g., the Catholic Worker movement, the United Farm Workers movement, the civil rights movement, iterations of the feminist movement); direct involvement with the communities. Same as GWSS:3550, RELS:3550.

SJUS:3950 Academic Internship 1-3 s.h.
Work under supervision of a faculty member on a scholarly or creative project related to the department or campus, or work with the director of undergraduate studies as a media, digital publishing, or teaching intern; students receive credit for the internship depending on the number of hours they work, learning objectives they develop, and meetings, written reports, and other research-related or self-evaluative writing they contract to do with the supervising faculty member. Prerequisites: GWSS:1001 or SJUS:1001. Requirements: gender, women’s, and sexuality studies or social justice major or minor. Same as GWSS:3950.

SJUS:4080 Advocacy and Engagement Capstone 3 s.h.
Design and development of individual creative or scholarly projects in the field of social justice; emphasis on strengthening student’s research and writing skills; synthesizing and extending work already completed in the social justice major. Prerequisites: SJUS:1001 and GWSS:1002 and GWSS:3138 and PHIL:1034 and SOC:2810.