

Social Justice and the Performing Arts, Certificate

Learning Outcomes

The certificate provides students with the following competencies:

- Increased knowledge about selected history of social movements, how those movements emerged, and the impacts those movements had on policy, populations, the environment, the arts, and culture.
- The ability to explore through coursework how the intersections of geography, race, class, gender, sexuality, health, economics, and history create networks of privilege and oppression across the globe, and to reflect on situations they encounter in art and community engagement work.
- The ability to explore the application of the role of performing arts in community and society throughout history and in established creative community engagement, social justice-based projects, and/or scholarly work, and how that focus can be applied to interdisciplinary social justice work.
- The ability to read, write, listen, and act through social justice coursework in order to understand how conditions are created for change on the local, regional, and national level historically, ethically, politically, and personally.
- The articulation of a vision that starts to inform their work, future project planning, and thinking about the arts and community that includes their ability to creatively conceptualize and articulate their personal goals while balancing the needs of community partners in performance, social, and global contexts in relation to existing philosophies and theories, and to apply their vision to creative or scholarly engagement work.

Requirements

The undergraduate Certificate in Social Justice and the Performing Arts requires a minimum of 21 s.h. of coursework, including at least 18 s.h. earned at the University of Iowa or in approved study abroad courses. Students must maintain a grade-point average of at least 2.00 in coursework for the certificate. Coursework in the certificate may not be taken pass/nonpass.

The certificate may be earned by any student admitted to the University of Iowa who is not enrolled in a UI graduate or professional degree program. Undergraduate to Graduate (U2G) students may earn the certificate when the undergraduate classification is primary.

Students complete two foundation courses, one creative practice and skill-building course, three background courses, and one capstone course. They must meet with the certificate director or an area of study advisor every semester to discuss their course selections and plan for the capstone course.

Students who wish to count a course not listed in the certificate program of study, including study abroad courses, may submit a request for approval to the certificate director. Any course must address social justice themes.

Some of the courses have prerequisites; students must complete all of a course's prerequisites before they may register for a course. Some of these courses also have specific restrictions, such as courses being open only to certain majors.

The Certificate in Social Justice and the Performing Arts requires the following coursework.

Foundation Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
Both of these:		
THTR:3615	Action! Engage! Art! Creative Placemaking for the Public Good	3
SJUS:1001	Introduction to Social Justice	3

Creative Practice and Skill Building

Performing arts students must take a course outside their major or minor area of study to build partnerships across disciplines.

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
THTR:1411	Comedy and Society	3
THTR:3421	Performing Autobiography	3
THTR:3630	Special Topics in Theatre Arts (when topic is devised theatre project: social justice and collaborative performance or the musical as vehicle for social change)	3
THTR:3895	Performance, Art, and New Technologies in Society	3
THTR:6310	Special Topics in Playwriting (when topic is site specific performances and playwriting)	3
DANC:1150	Brazilian Culture and Carnival	3
DANC:1412	The Arts in Performance	3
DANC:3600	Art, Feminist Practice, and Social Justice	3
EDTL:2670	Peacebuilding, Singing, and Writing in a Prison Choir	3
MUS:2800	Digital Arts: An Introduction	3

Background Courses

Performing arts students may take only one background course in their major or minor area of study. All students select 9 s.h. (three courses) from the following emphasis areas.

The Environment and Ecological Justice

Course #	Title	Hours
THTR:6310	Special Topics in Playwriting	3
AFAM:4770	Environmental Justice	3
ANTH:3103	Environment and Culture	3
GEOG:3300	Envisioning Future Worlds: Sustainable Development and Its Alternatives	3

HIST:3263	American Ruins	3
RHET:3700	Advocacy and Sustainability: Crafting Stories of People, Place, and Resilience	3
SJUS:1046	Environmental Politics in India	3

Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies

Course #	Title	Hours
THTR:2405	Staging Americans: U.S. Cultures Through Theatre and Performance	3
THTR:3430	Women on Stage	3
GWSS:3282	Women and Power in U.S. History Since the Civil War	3
GWSS:3600	Art, Feminist Practice, and Social Justice	3
MUS:4320	Music and Gender	3
SJUS:2500	Love, War, Activism: Stories About Women from Across the World	3

Global and Transnational Studies

Course #	Title	Hours
THTR:2320	Playwriting in a Global World	3
THTR:6310	Special Topics in Playwriting (when topic is cross-cultural collaboration: theatre and peace keeping, or theatre in conflict zones, or theatre and activism)	3
DANC:2060	Dance and Society in Global Contexts	3
DANC:2085	Introduction to African Caribbean Dance Practices	3
GWSS:2650	Global Reproduction	3
HRTS:3906	Global Crises and Human Rights	3
MUS:1310	World Music	3
SJUS:3250	Literature and Social Justice	3

Race and Ethnicity in the U.S.

Course #	Title	Hours
THTR:2405	Staging Americans: U.S. Cultures Through Theatre and Performance	3
AFAM:1241	The Soundtrack of Black America	3
AFAM:3053	The Civil Rights Movement	3
AFAM:3600	Digitizing Blackness	3
COMM:2054	Movements, Protest, Resistance	3
DANC:2065	Performing Power/ Performing Protest: The Body, Identity, and the Image	3
HIST:3232	History of American Inequality	3
HIST:4260	The Sixties in America	3

MUS:1009	Jazz Cultures in America and Abroad	3
MUS:1303	Roots, Rock, and Rap: A History of Popular Music	3
MUS:4350	Advanced Jazz History	3
MUS:4360	Jazz Matters	3
SJUS:2294	Indigenous Art Activism and Social Justice	3
SJUS:3250	Literature and Social Justice	3
SJUS:3415	Latina/o/x Protest, Movement, Resistance	3

Capstone Course

Students submit a capstone project plan in the semester before they enroll in the capstone course.

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
THTR:4691	Projects in Theatre	3-4
THTR:4692	Honors Theatre Arts	3-4
DANC:4990	Independent Study	3-4
DANC:4998	BFA Senior Project in Dance	3-4
DANC:4999	Honors Project in Dance	3-4
GWSS:3900	Research for Public Engagement	3
MUS:3990	Special Studies	3-4
MUS:4995	Honors in Music	3-4