Social Justice, B.A.

Students who major in social justice expand their knowledge by integrating theory and engagement with real world field experiences. They approach social justice through the arts, history, literature, comparative religious studies, political science, philosophy, health education, and gender, women's, and sexuality studies.

Social justice students:
- explore how the intersections of geography, race, class, gender, sexuality, health, economics, and history create networks of privilege and oppression across the globe through coursework and reflect on situations they encounter in the field;
- read, write, listen, and act through coursework and fieldwork in order to understand how conditions are created for change on the local, regional, and national level historically, ethically, politically, and personally;
- learn about selected history of social movements, how those movements emerged, and the impacts those movements had on policy, populations, the environment, and culture through engagement in a core course;
- develop a deeper understanding of issues, practice, research, and theory related to social justice in one or more areas of study within the traditional disciplines of the liberal arts through 9 s.h. of coursework in an area of specialization; and
- prepare for employment and/or for graduate study in various fields through high quality internships and educational experiences, including anthropology, political science, law, criminology, health, the cultural sector, social services, business, nonprofit management, or public history projects.

Learning Outcomes

Students graduating with a degree in social justice will:
- explore how an intersectional lens can magnify the tensions within constructed identities based on race, ethnicity, gender and gender expression, geography, language, citizenship, sexuality, class, age, ability, and religion to practices of oppression and discrimination;
- learn about historical moments when oppression and discrimination have influenced policy, culture, law, and corporeal practices and find recurring patterns in current events, culture, and policy; and
- express ways their personal experiences and scholarly ideas connect to larger political, environmental, social, and geographical contexts, issues, and problems.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in social justice requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 39 s.h. of work for the major. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core.

Students may declare the major at any time. They are advised by the Academic Advising Center until they have earned 24 s.h. of credit. Transfer credit is evaluated case by case; a maximum of 6 s.h. of transfer credit may be counted toward the degree. Foundation courses must be completed at the University of Iowa. Students may count a maximum of 9 s.h. completed for another major, minor, or certificate toward the social justice major.

Work for the major consists of foundation coursework, core courses, an emphasis area, and a capstone experience.

The B.A. with a major in social justice requires the following coursework.

### Foundation Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SJUS:1001/GWSS:1003</td>
<td>Introduction to Social Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>GWSS:1002</td>
<td>Diversity and Power in the U.S.</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GWSS:3138/RHET:3138/SJUS:3138</td>
<td>Writing to Change the World</td>
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### Core Courses

**Human Rights, Diversity, Activism**

<table>
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<tr>
<td>SJUS:2200/GWSS:2200</td>
<td>The Racial and Gender Construction of Identity, Citizenship, and Rights in America</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>SJUS:2500/ENGL:2570/GWSS:2500</td>
<td>Love, War, Activism: Stories About Women from Across the World</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJUS:2571/ENGL:2571/GWSS:2571</td>
<td>Visualizing Human Rights</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJUS:3130/GWSS:3130/HIST:3252</td>
<td>Blacks and Jews: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture in America</td>
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</table>
Social Justice Emphasis Area

Students choose one emphasis area from the following lists and complete three or more courses for 9 s.h.; two of the courses must be numbered 3000 or above. A course used to satisfy the core requirement cannot be taken to satisfy an emphasis area requirement. Students may substitute courses with approval of the social justice advisor. They also may include one study abroad course related to social justice, including the India Winterim Program; see Study Abroad in the Catalog. In addition, students may create their own emphasis area in collaboration with the social justice advisor.

**Social Justice Movements: Politics, History, Culture, Art**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>SJUS:2000</td>
<td>Theories of Social Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJUS:294</td>
<td>Indigenous Art Activism and Social Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJUS:2300</td>
<td>Race, Class, Gender, and Labor: Worker Struggles for Legal Rights in the United States</td>
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<td>SJUS:3171</td>
<td>Higher Education and Social Justice</td>
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<td>SJUS:3250</td>
<td>Literature and Social Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJUS:3459</td>
<td>Making Change, Making History: Iowa’s Black Activists and Digital History</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJUS:3550</td>
<td>Social Justice, Religion, and Spirituality Ignited</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJUS:3600</td>
<td>Art, Feminist Practice, and Social Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJUS:3855</td>
<td>Human Rights and Islam</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJUS:3905</td>
<td>Topics in African American Literature (when topic is the Harlem Renaissance)</td>
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<td>SJUS:3915</td>
<td>Topics in Postcolonial Studies (when topic is revolutionary Caribbean: Cuba and Puerto Rico)</td>
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<td>SJUS:3925</td>
<td>History of American Inequality</td>
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<td>SJUS:3935</td>
<td>The Sixties in America</td>
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<td>SJUS:3945</td>
<td>Sustainable Development</td>
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<td>SJUS:3955</td>
<td>Topics in Latina/o/x Studies: History and Culture</td>
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<td>SJUS:2000</td>
<td>Theories of Social Justice</td>
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<td>SJUS:3945</td>
<td>Sustainable Development</td>
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<td>SJUS:3955</td>
<td>Topics in Latina/o/x Studies: History and Culture</td>
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### The Arts and Social Change

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<td>SJUS:3250/ENGL:3170/GWSS:3190</td>
<td>Literature and Social Justice</td>
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<td>GWSS:3190</td>
<td>Tell Magazine Writing and Publishing Workshop</td>
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<td>GWSS:3450/ENGL:3820</td>
<td>Writing About Girls</td>
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<tr>
<td>GWSS:3600</td>
<td>Art, Feminist Practice, and Social Justice</td>
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<td>AFAM:3245/RELS:3745</td>
<td>Twentieth-Century African American Religion: Civil Rights to Hip Hop</td>
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<td>ARTS:3400</td>
<td>Grant Writing in the Arts</td>
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<td>ASIA:2450</td>
<td>India Beat: The Aesthetics and Politics of India Today</td>
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<td>DANC:2065</td>
<td>Performing Power/Performing Protest: The Body, Identity, and the Image</td>
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<td>EDTL:3204</td>
<td>Art Education Studio and Field Components</td>
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<td>MUS:1687</td>
<td>Orientation to Music Therapy</td>
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<td>THTR:2605/EDTL:2963</td>
<td>Monsters, Victims, and Villains: Changing Perceptions</td>
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<td>THTR:3421/GWSS:3421</td>
<td>Starting Up the Arts Start-up</td>
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<td>THTR:3520/DPA:3520/ENTR:3520/INTD:3520</td>
<td>Arts Leadership Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>WRIT:2100</td>
<td>Writing and Community Outreach</td>
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<td>WRIT:2101</td>
<td>Writers in the Community</td>
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<td>WRIT:4100</td>
<td>Iowa Youth Writing Project Mentorship Practicum</td>
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### Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies

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<td>GWSS:1001</td>
<td>Introduction to Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>GWSS:1046/ANTH:1046/GEOG:1046/SJUS:1046</td>
<td>Environmental Politics in India</td>
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<td>GWSS:2000/RHET:2031</td>
<td>Desire, Consent, and Sex in U.S. Culture(s): Replacing Coercion and Violence with Respect</td>
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<tr>
<td>GWSS:2108/ANTH:2108</td>
<td>Gendering India</td>
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<td>GWSS:2160/AMST:2160</td>
<td>Love and Romance in America</td>
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<td>GWSS:2500/ENGL:2570/SJUS:2500</td>
<td>Love, War, Activism: Stories About Women from Across the World</td>
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<tr>
<td>GWSS:2650/GHS:2650</td>
<td>Global Reproduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>GWSS:2900/ANTH:2191</td>
<td>Love, Sex, and Money: Sexuality and Exchange Across Cultures</td>
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<td>GWSS:3005</td>
<td>Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies Practicum</td>
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<td>Transnational Sexualities</td>
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<td>GWSS:3100</td>
<td>LGBTQ/Queer Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>GWSS:3118/ANTH:3118</td>
<td>Politics of Reproduction</td>
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### The Environment and Ecological Justice

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<td>Environmental Politics in India</td>
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<td>ANTH:2261</td>
<td>Human Impacts on the Environment</td>
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<td>ANTH:3103</td>
<td>Environment and Culture</td>
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<td>ANTH:4130/RELS:4730</td>
<td>Religion and Environmental Ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPH:2200</td>
<td>Climageddon: Understanding Climate Change and Associated Impacts on Health</td>
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<td>CPH:4200</td>
<td>Agriculture, Food Systems, and Sustainability</td>
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<tr>
<td>EES:3070</td>
<td>Marine Ecosystems and Conservation</td>
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<td>GEOG:2410</td>
<td>Environment and Development</td>
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<td>GEOG:2930</td>
<td>Water Resources</td>
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<td>GEOG:2950</td>
<td>Environmental Conservation</td>
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<td>GEOG:3340</td>
<td>Ecosystem Services: Human Dependence on Natural Systems</td>
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<td>GEOG:3400</td>
<td>Iowa Environmental Policy in Practice</td>
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<td>GEOG:3760/GHS:3760</td>
<td>Hazards and Society</td>
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<td>GEOG:4770/GHS:4770</td>
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<td>RELS:3976/NAIS:3276</td>
<td>American Indian Environmentalism</td>
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<td>RHET:3700</td>
<td>Advocacy and Sustainability: Crafting Stories of People, Place, and Resilience</td>
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<td>GWSS:3200</td>
<td>Theories for Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies</td>
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<td>GWSS:3280/HIST:3280</td>
<td>Women and Power in U.S. History Through the Civil War</td>
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<td>GWSS:3300/ANTH:3300</td>
<td>Mothers and Motherhood</td>
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<td>GWSS:3326/GHS:3327</td>
<td>The Politics of Progress: NGOs, Development, and Sexuality</td>
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<td>GWSS:3350/ANTH:3125/IS:3350</td>
<td>Transnational Feminism</td>
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<td>GWSS:3450/ENGL:3820</td>
<td>Writing About Girls</td>
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<td>GWSS:3750/SOC:3750</td>
<td>Born in the USA: Fertility and Reproduction</td>
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<td>AMST:3430/GWSS:3430/THTR:3430</td>
<td>Women on Stage</td>
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<td>ANTH:4140/CBH:4140/GHS:4140/GWSS:4140</td>
<td>Feminist Activism and Global Health</td>
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<td>COMM:2041/GWSS:2041</td>
<td>Gender, Communication, and Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMM:2075/GWSS:2075</td>
<td>Gender, Sexuality, and Media</td>
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<td>COMM:4169/GWSS:4169</td>
<td>Feminist Rhetorics</td>
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<td>Women and Power in U.S. History Since the Civil War</td>
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<td>JMC:3175</td>
<td>Gender and Mass Media</td>
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<td>POLI:3114</td>
<td>Women and Politics in the United States</td>
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<td>RELS:3431/GWSS:3131</td>
<td>Gender and Sexuality in Asia</td>
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<td>SPST:1074/AMST:1074/GWSS:1074</td>
<td>Inequality in American Sport</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSW:3712/NURS:3712</td>
<td>Human Sexuality, Diversity, and Society</td>
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### Global and Transnational Studies

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<tr>
<td>GWSS:2108/ANTH:2108</td>
<td>Gendering India</td>
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<tr>
<td>GWSS:2151/ANTH:2151/IS:2151</td>
<td>Global Migration in the Contemporary World</td>
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<td>Love, War, Activism: Stories About Women from Across the World</td>
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<td>Global Reproduction</td>
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<td>GWSS:2700</td>
<td>Transgender People, Politics, and Cultures</td>
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<td>GWSS:2900/ANTH:2191</td>
<td>Love, Sex, and Money: Sexuality and Exchange Across Cultures</td>
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<td>Transnational Sexualities</td>
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<td>GWSS:3121/ANTH:3121</td>
<td>Love, Marriage, and Family in India</td>
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<td>The Politics of Progress: NGOs, Development, and Sexuality</td>
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<td>History of Globalization</td>
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<td>Imperialism and Modern India</td>
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<td>Immigration Politics</td>
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<td>Gender and Sexuality in Asia</td>
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<td>Human Rights and Islam</td>
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<td>Introduction to Spanish American Cultures</td>
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<td>SPAN:3230</td>
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### Health

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<td>The Cultural Politics of HIV-AIDS</td>
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<td>GWSS:2400/CPH:2240/LATS:2400</td>
<td>Health Disparities and Intersectionality with U.S. Latina/o/x Peoples</td>
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<td>GWSS:2600</td>
<td>Men, Masculinity, Identity, and Health</td>
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<td>GWSS:2800/AFAM:2800</td>
<td>African American Women, Health, Hair, and Sexuality</td>
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<td>GWSS:3177/NURS:3739</td>
<td>Women and Their Bodies in Health and Illness</td>
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<td>ANTH:2164/GHS:2164</td>
<td>Culture and Healing for Future Health Professionals</td>
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<td>ANTH:2181/ASP:2181/GHS:2181</td>
<td>The Anthropology of Aging</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH:2182/GHS:2182</td>
<td>Africa: Health and Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH:3110/GHS:3110/NAIS:3110</td>
<td>Health of Indigenous Peoples</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH:3151/ASP:3151/GHS:3151</td>
<td>The Anthropology of the Beginnings and Ends of Life</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Global and Transnational Studies

- **Code**: The course code for the class.
- **Title**: The title of the course.
- **Hours**: The number of credit hours for the course.
ANTH:3152/ASP:3152/GHS:3152 Anthropology of Caregiving and Health 3
ASP:3150 Psychology of Aging 3
CPH:2200 Climageddon: Understanding Climate Change and Associated Impacts on Health 2
CPH:2400 The U.S. Health System in a Global Context 3
CPH:3500/GHS:3500 Global Public Health 3
ENGL:2560 Topics in Culture and Identity (when topic is stories about HIV/AIDS) 3
GHS:3720 Contemporary Issues in Global Health 3
GHS:4600 Global Health and Human Rights 3
HIST:4162/GHS:4162 History of Global Health 3
JMC:3150/CBH:3150/GHS:3150 Media and Health 3
PSY:2930 Abnormal Psychology: Health Professions 3
PSY:3065 The Aging Mind and Brain 3
PSY:3240 Motivation, Addiction, and the Brain 3
RELS:3580/ANTH:3113/ASIA:3561/GHS:3113 Religion and Healing 3

Race and Ethnicity in the U.S.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SJUS:3130</td>
<td>Blacks and Jews: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture in America</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GWSS:3130/ HIST:3252</td>
<td>Anthropology of Race</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMST:2700/ AFAM:2700</td>
<td>The Black Image in Sequential Art: Comics, Graphic Novels, and Anime</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH:2165/ AMST:2165/ NAIS:2165</td>
<td>Native Peoples of North America</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM:2076/ AFAM:2076</td>
<td>Race, Ethnicity, and Media</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL:2463</td>
<td>Topics in African American Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL:2465/ AFAM:2465</td>
<td>Selected African American Authors</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL:3444</td>
<td>Literatures of the American Peoples</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ENGL:3459/AFAM:3459 African American Literature Before 1900 3
ENGL:3460/AFAM:3460 African American Literature After 1900 3
HIST:2267/AFAM:2267 African American History to 1877: From Slave Cabin to Senate Floor 3
HIST:3217/LAS:3217/LATS:3217 Latina/o/x Immigration 3
HIST:4216/LAS:4216 Mexican American History 3
RELS:3745/AFAM:3245 Twentieth-Century African American Religion: Civil Rights to Hip Hop 3
SOC:2830 Race and Ethnicity 3
SPAN:3400/LATS:3400 Chicano Literature and Culture 3
SPAN:3440/LATS:3440 Topics in Latina/o Literature and Culture 3
SPAN:4820/LATS:4800 Latina/o/x Popular Culture 3
SSW:3847 Discrimination, Oppression, and Diversity 3

An African American studies course (prefix AFAM) numbered 2000 or above that does not fulfill a GE CLAS Core requirement
A Latina/o/x studies course (prefix LATS) numbered 2000 or above that does not fulfill a GE CLAS Core requirement
A Native American and Indigenous studies course (prefix NAIS) numbered 2000 or above that does not fulfill a GE CLAS Core requirement

Capstone

Students complete all of the requirements for either Option A or Option B.

Option A

Students complete a senior project and the following two courses.

Students prepare for the capstone by completing GWSS:3900 Creative and Critical Practice: Theories, Methods, and Skills for the Capstone Senior Project during the fall semester which focuses on developing advanced research, reading, and writing skills and choosing their capstone topics. Senior Research Seminar (GWSS:4090), taken during the spring semester of their final year, provides a platform for students to share their capstone research and writing. Students create either extended essays that document their research using the style manual of their choice or produce creative work alongside an annotated research bibliography. At the end of the semester, students make posters that represent the subject, content, and significance of their research and present them at the Senior Research Seminar Poster Show.
Social Justice, B.A.

Code | Title | Hours
--- | --- | ---
Both of these: | Creative and Critical Practice: Theories, Methods, and Skills for the Capstone Senior Project | 3
GWSS:4090 | Senior Research Seminar | 3

**Option B**

In the fall semester of their final year, students complete SJUS:3400 Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies Advocacy and Engagement Colloquium which requires community service work at a social justice-related organization. In the spring, students complete SJUS:4080 Advocacy and Engagement Capstone, in which they develop an individual creative or scholarly project that pulls together their lived and community experiences, their academic learning, and significant research. The project culminates with a poster shown at the Senior Research Poster Show.

**Honors**

**Honors in the Major**

Students have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Departmental honors students must maintain a cumulative University of Iowa g.p.a. of at least 3.33 and a g.p.a. of at least 3.33 in all work for the major. Honors students must complete a yearlong thesis project and meet the Capstone Option A requirements.

**Capstone Option A**

Code | Title | Hours
--- | --- | ---
Both of these: | Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies Advocacy and Engagement Colloquium | 3
SJUS:4080 | Advocacy and Engagement Capstone | 3

**University of Iowa Honors Program**

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University's honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the social justice major.

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**Academic Plans**

**Four-Year Graduation Plan**

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University's Four-Year Graduation Plan.

- **Before the seventh semester begins**: two social justice movement courses; two courses in human rights, diversity, activism; and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree
- **Before the eighth semester begins**: 9 s.h. in the emphasis area and plan a capstone option with advisor
- **During the eighth semester**: capstone requirement, all remaining coursework in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

**Sample Plan of Study**

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

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**Social Justice, B.A.**

**Course** | **Title** | **Hours**
--- | --- | ---
**First Year** |  |  
**Fall** |  |  
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030 | The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric | 3 - 4
SJUS:1001 | Introduction to Social Justice | 3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab | 4
Elective course | 3
CSi:1600 | Success at Iowa | 2
**Hours** | 15-16  
**Spring** |  |  
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200 | Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature | 3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning | 3
GWSS:1002 | Diversity and Power in the U.S. | 3
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences | 3
Elective course | 3
**Hours** | 15-16  
**Second Year** |  |  
**Fall** |  |  
SJUS:3138 | Writing to Change the World | 3
SJUS:2250 | The History of Social Justice Movements | 3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture | 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level | 4 - 5
Proficiency or elective course | 3
Elective course | 3
**Hours** | 16-17
Spring
Major: core course in human rights, diversity, activism 3
Major: emphasis area course 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course 4-5
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab 3
Elective course 3

Third Year
Fall
Major: core course in social justice movements: politics, culture, art 3
Major: emphasis area course (3000 level or above) 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course 4-5
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts 3
Elective course 3

Spring
Major: emphasis area course (3000 level or above) 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course 4-5
Major: core course in social justice movements: politics, culture, art 3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives 3
Elective course 3

Fourth Year
Fall
SJUS:3400 or GWSS:3900 Gender, Women’s, and Sexuality Studies Advocacy and Engagement Colloquium or Creative and Critical Practice: Theories, Methods, and Skills for the Capstone Senior Project 3
Major: core course in human rights, diversity, activism 3
Elective course 3
Elective course 3
Elective course 3

Spring
SJUS:4080 or GWSS:4090 Advocacy and Engagement or Senior Research Seminar 3
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues 3
Major: emphasis area course (3000 level or above) 3
Elective course 3
Elective course 3
Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)

Career Advancement
The social justice major prepares students for careers in diverse fields. Graduates may work in nonprofit and governmental agencies, international organizations, think tanks, research and policy institutes, foundations, religious and cultural institutions, schools, universities, businesses, and health care settings. Their positions may relate to the emphasis areas they developed in the major, addressing issues such as human rights, the environment and ecological justice, racial and ethnic diversity, poverty, improving the lives of women and girls, sustainability, education, public health, and the arts and social change.

Students also are well prepared to continue their studies in a wide range of graduate programs and professional schools.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.