Despite university impaction, students in the Minor Program complete their academic programs efficiently. By May 2014, 31 students will have graduated from SJSU with the Human Rights Minor credential. The ease of completion is further evidenced by a dropout rate of only 6% since 2012.

Core courses in the Minor (JS 25, JS 171, SOCI 118, JS 179) continue to fill to (and often beyond) capacity. Enrollment is expected to increase as JS 25 becomes a lower division (D3) GE course in the coming AYs.

Human Rights Working Group membership, available substantive elective courses in the Minor Program, and partnerships with community organizations for Human Rights Action Projects (JS 179) continue to expand.

Thanks to support from the College of Applied Sciences and Arts (CASA) and the Department of Justice Studies, we are happy to announce the new hire of tenure track faculty member, Dr. Edith Kenney (see “New Faculty Spotlight”) Dr. Kinney’s research and instruction will bring valued resources to the Human Rights and Critical Legal Studies Minor Programs in fall 2014.

Human Rights Minor Curriculum:

JS 25: Introduction to Human Rights and Justice (3 units)

Covers core international legal concepts and institutions (such as the United Nations) and the history of contemporary human rights instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights [UDHR] and “The Covenants” [ICCPR, ICESCR].

JS 172: Human Rights and Justice: An Interdisciplinary Exploration (V) or SOCI 118: Sociology of Human Rights and Social Justice (3 units)

Focus on applicable political and social scientific theory, the exploration of critical debates in human rights scholarship, and investigations of contemporary human rights struggles—particularly those “in our own backyard.”
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Substantive Electives (6 units)

Substantive electives include over 50 courses across the Colleges of Applied Sciences and Arts (CASA) and Social Sciences (COSS), including many R, S, and V courses required for graduation. Students are highly recommended to meet their R, S, and V requirements as they complete the Minor.

For a complete list of electives, please see the HR Minor Graduation Form: [http://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies/degrees/minors/human-rights-minor/HRMinorGradFormSpring2014.pdf](http://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies/degrees/minors/human-rights-minor/HRMinorGradFormSpring2014.pdf)

JS 179: Human Rights Practicum and Seminar (3 units)

The first part of this course is designed much like a graduate seminar, where students review and deconstruct cutting edge scholarship in the field of human rights. This is to provide preparation for graduate study.

The second part is a service-learning component where students work in teams of 3-6 on a pre-determined Human Rights Action Project in collaboration with a community organizational partner. These projects meet our University mission and Program goals by directly engaging with the needs of the local communities we serve as a CSU. Further, by working directly with area human rights organizations students expand their professional networks and employment chances in applied fields. Students in the capstone course are spearheading and supporting ongoing human rights action projects with organizations like the San Jose Peace and Justice Center, Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY), CommUniverCity/Garden2Table, and the ACLU of Northern CA. Projects with the Red Cross of Santa Clara County, the Santa Clara County Commission/Office of Human Relations, and Carry the Vision will join many more in the 2014-15 academic year.

Our Faculty and Support:

Our instructing faculty hold advanced degrees in Law, Sociology, Criminology, Anthropology, Economics, Political Science, Social Work, Communication Studies, Environmental Studies, Geography, History, various Natural and Health Sciences, and soon the Humanities. Our faculty and their various areas of expertise mirror the interdisciplinary spirit of human rights scholarship and provide a well-rounded curriculum fit for the contemporary field. The Human Rights Working Group includes many of these talented educators, along with other SJSU scholars dedicated to human rights struggles. Many thanks go out to working group members for their hard work in 2013.

Human Rights Working Group members (2013):

- Christopher Cox
- Kathryn Davis
- Alessandro DeGiorgi
- Mary Juno
- Steve Lee
- Scott Myers-Lipton
- Elizabeth Cara
- Miranda Worthen
- Noam Perry
- Ericka Adams

- Sociology
- Geography/Global Studies
- Justice Studies
- Forensic Science/Justice Studies
- Forensic Science/Justice Studies
- Sociology
- Occupational Therapy
- Health Science
- Justice Studies
- Justice Studies
- Sociology
- Record Clearance Project/JS
- Asian American Studies/Sociology
- English/Middle East Studies Prog.
- African American Studies/Social Sci
- Social Work
- Anthropology
- Psychology
- Sociology/CCLL
- Social Work

Dr. Edith Kinney will be joining the Justice Studies Department in Fall 2014 as an Assistant Professor. Currently the Pre-Law Advisor and Visiting Assistant Professor in Social Sciences at Mills College in Oakland, Dr. Kinney received her Ph.D. in Jurisprudence & Social Policy from the University of California at Berkeley (2011) and her J.D. from Berkeley Law (2006). As a Fulbright Fellow in Thailand, Dr. Kinney’s fieldwork examined the strategic mobilization of law and human rights by grassroots activists and state security and social welfare officials in campaigns to address human trafficking. Her work has appeared in the Berkeley Journal of Gender, Law & Justice and Gender, Violence and human security: Critical feminist perspectives (Eds. Aili Mari Tripp, Myra Marx Ferree and Christina Ewig, NYU Press, 2013), and Power plays: Rethinking the politics of sex work (Eds. Samantha Majic and Carisa Showden, University of Minnesota Press, 2014). Dr. Kinney’s current research projects explore the dynamic interactions of law and society, focused particularly on the role social movement organizations play in criminal justice reform at home and abroad. She looks forward to contributing to the growing interdisciplinary human rights community at SJSU.

2013 In Highlights:

On October 17, 2013 we hosted a packed house (100+) for our second Annual Human Rights Lecture, part of the Ann Lucas Lecture Series. Our event on the formerly named “School of the Americas” at Fort Benning, GA featured Dr. Claudia Chaufan of USCF, Co-Founder of School of the Americas Watch, Judy Liteky, and Director Jim McGarvey of the Sister Dorothy Stang Center, Notre Dame de Namur University.
Students in the capstone (JS 179) course began several Human Rights Action Projects in 2013 that continue today, including:

DACArmented: Students work with the San Jose Peace and Justice Center, TICRA, and CommUniverCity S to provide free legal services to those who qualify for working papers under federal DACA legislation.

FLY Male Mentors: Students work with Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY) on a campaign to recruit much needed male mentors for youth in the dependency and delinquency systems.

Sexual Assault Resistance (JSU): Students work with university partners to create consistent information and resources to prevent sexual assault on campus and provide support and services to sexual assault victims.


Dr. Scott Myers-Lipton celebrates a successful campaign to raise the minimum wage to $10.00/hr. in San Jose with student and community partners such as Café J. Look out for Dr. Myers-Lipton’s new book available in October 2014, Ending extreme poverty: An economic bill of rights to eliminate poverty (Paradigm Publishers: www.paradigmpublishers.com).

In 2013 the Record Clearance Project, under the leadership of Margaret “Peggy” Stevenson filed 169 petitions in court for 55 clients, of which 167 conviction dismissals were granted; was granted 21 out of 22 filed petitions to reduce eligible felonies to misdemeanors; and gave 39 community presentations to over 1600 people on expungement law and procedure. RCP members also worked with Stanford University to improve on efforts to implement CA expungement policies.

We’re happy to highlight Dr. Miranda Worthen’s work on returning veterans in the U.S. and war-affected young mothers in Liberia, Sierra Leon, and Uganda.

• Dr. Armaline had several opportunities to promote the Minor Program in 2013, giving talks on KQED’s Equal Time talk show, SEIU-USWW organizing events, the Critical Sociology Re-Imagining Human Rights conference, and the Santa Clara County Human Rights Day Proclamation. In 2014 he will focus on talks concerning human rights and global sustainability, beginning at Emory University.

• Dr. Persis Karim, Professor, English & Comparative Literature, received a Peace-Building Grant from the United States Institute of Peace to host a workshop for high school and community college instructors: “Teaching Peace/Teaching Nonviolence: Approaches to Teaching the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.” The SJSU workshop involved other faculty including Dr. Diana Stover (Journalism) and Dr. Kathryn Davis (Geography/Global Studies). The workshop helped teachers explore how to present the conflict to high school students and offer pedagogical approaches to understanding the narratives of both Palestinians and Israelis as well as to underscore the human rights impact of occupation.

• Dr. Ericka Adams continues her (interview study) research on “the impact of criminal record clearance on ex-offenders and their families” with co-author Elsa Chen of Santa Clara University.

• Developed in partnership with Justice Studies Graduate coordinator Dr. Alessandro DeGiorgi, two human rights courses entered the JS Masters Program curriculum: JS 212 Local & Global Perspectives on Human Rights, JS 214: Social Movements, Community Organizing and Social Justice. Look for these courses in fall 2014 and spring 2015.

• JS 173: Information Rights Are Human Rights was developed and proposed as a new substantive elective course in the Justice Studies and Human Rights Minor Programs in partnership with Dr. Susan Maret of the School of Library and Information Sciences [SLIS] at SJSU.

• HS 172: Contemporary Environmental Health Issues and JS 172: Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery were added to the list of substantive elective courses.

• JS 25: Introduction to Human Rights and Justice was submitted as a lower division GE course. We expect JS 25 to satisfy GE area D3 by the 2014-15 AY.
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Last but certainly not least, we would like to congratulate all those students—our first—who completed the Minor in Human Rights in 2013. Please join us in recognizing these very talented, pioneering individuals:

Annie Luu Francisco Padil
Briana Garcia Humberto Rivera
Francisco Padilla Jamie Marcil
Rowena Castro Deysi Madriz
Robert Lopez Marcela Enriquez
Victoria Perry Shirley Jimenez
Alexandria Rodriguez Luis Araujo
Ingrid Infante Luz Pardo de Figueroa
Helen Chen Bo Li
Jose Pedraza

What’s to be done? What’s to come?

• In 2014 we will continue to work on our web presence, and unveil a new webpage hosted by the Department of Justice Studies. Please make sure to like/follow us on Facebook and Twitter: http://twitter.com/SJSUHumanRights, http://www.facebook.com/SJSUHumanRightsProgram.

• In an effort to expand and mature beyond the Minor in Human Rights, we will continue our efforts to secure internal and external funding over the next several years to fuel our expansion into a fully fledged program with a dedicated university funding stream, permanent research component, opportunities for graduate level research, and permanent staff. Those interested in collaborating on such efforts should contact Dr. Armaline via email.

• We will expand enrollment, available coursework, and Human Rights Action Project partnerships in the 2014-15 AY. New courses should include those on Genocide, Human Rights Forensics, and the conceptual Right to Information.


• We would like to congratulate Steve Lee and Mary Juno for launching the new Minor in Forensic Science! We hope to offer our new Human Rights Forensics course in the 2014-15 AY.

• Look for the new Human Rights Program Bulletin Board on the 5th floor of MacQuarrie hall in 2014. We will post HR relevant events as well as internship, scholarship, and extra credit opportunities available to Human Rights Minor students.

Very Special Thanks

Without dedicated administrative resources, the Human Rights Minor Program would not function if not for the borrowed support of Justice Studies administrative staff: Carol Santos, Molly Marquez, Eduardo Bautista, and Lan Tran. Many thanks to these dedicated staff members for their contributions to the Minor Program!!

Contact Information and Forms:

Note: All students interested in the Minor in Human Rights should submit enrollment paperwork to Dr. Armaline and see him with unofficial transcripts for advising.

William Armaline, Director
william.armaline@sjsu.edu

Website: http://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies/degrees/minors/human-rights-minor/index.html

Twitter: http://twitter.com/SJSUHumanRights

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/sjsuHumanRightsProgram

Minor declaration form for students with < 90 units: http://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/docs/major_minor_less_than_90.pdf

Minor declaration form for students with > 90 units: http://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/docs/major_minor_more_than_90.pdf


Please direct all mail correspondence to:
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