Justice Studies Undergraduate Program: Core Competencies

Theories
Theories in Justice Studies offer ways of analyzing, explaining, and critiquing our world and social institutions. Students will learn various theoretical approaches to concepts of power and justice, which lie at the heart of struggles for justice and the resistance to injustice in the modern world.

*JS 103, 104, 118, 119, 132, 155, 157*

Methodologies
Methodologies refer to the ways scholars gather and evaluate knowledge in Justice Studies. The term “methodologies” includes research methods (the procedures used in research to collect or generate data) and the philosophical assumptions on which a study is based and certain methods are chosen.

*JS 105, 107, 108, 110, 112, 113, 140*

Critical Inquiries into Law, Justice & Society
Critical inquiries involve the ability to ask relevant questions that challenge authority and orthodoxy as they help students to construct and synthesize knowledge, and analyze phenomena in a multi-faceted manner. Critical inquiries as a competency area enable students to evaluate justice issues and theory not at face value, but as an intersection of competing or colluding forces that are not initially evident. Critical inquiries help students to become active agents in society as they critique our social world.

*JS 109, 115, 120, 122, 130, 136, 150, 188*

Local, Transnational, and Historical Analyses
Within this competency area students will learn how to contextualize justice-related issues using subjects and theories connecting local, transnational, and historical analytical frameworks. That is, students will develop the empirical, methodological, and analytical skills to understand how a justice-related practice or problem affects or has affected different communities, societies, and cultures of the modern world.

*JS 102, 116, 121, 133, 135, 156, 158, 187*

Analytical Research and Writing
Within this competency area students will develop the skills to conduct and evaluate scholarly research and writing, including the identification of scholarly and non-scholarly sources. As they assess the strengths and limitations of research, students will engage in erudite and persuasive writing and presentation for a professional or academic audience. Students will learn to support arguments with relevant sources, and to cite them according to applicable professional standards in the humanities, social sciences, or sciences.

*JS 100w, 159, 169*

Experiential Learning
Justice Studies promotes scholarly and applied understandings about the interaction between theory, scholarship and human experience. The Department encourages experiential learning that draws from and seeks to serve local communities around the Bay Area and beyond.

*JS 141, 142, 170, 180, 184*