SJUS (SJUS)

SJUS 100. Introduction to Social Justice. 3 Units.
Concepts of and quests for justice, and struggles against injustice, have shaped human understanding, relationships, and behavior for centuries. Individuals operate within community contexts created through interactions and relationships structured by sociability, belonging, and responsibility. Probing broad questions, this signature core course will encourage students to think critically and expansively about the social world and the conditions of humanity. The course will provide a foundational exploration of social justice concepts, issues, and remedies, thereby developing the necessary analytical tools and information to assess inequality and injustice and address historical and contemporary issues. Following an interdisciplinary, case-study approach, featuring faculty from different schools and departments at CWRU, this course also will provide students with multiple frameworks for understanding the interconnections between what are often perceived as disparate and disconnected fields of study and inquiry. Three primary questions guide the course: What is social justice? Why does social justice matter? What can be done? Counts for CAS Global & Cultural Diversity Requirement.

SJUS 200. Social Justice Engagement Seminar: Experiential, Community Based Learning. 1 Unit.
SJUS Engagement Seminar: Experiential, Community Based Learning. This one-credit seminar is designed to provide real life engagement with the community, and to facilitate student interaction with themes and topics related to Social Justice. Students will attend a set number of out-of-classroom events on campus and in the community to learn from community members, workers and leaders who are actively experiencing, educating about, and addressing social justice issues. Engagement in the community and with diverse stakeholders is necessary to developing awareness and sensitivity to the context and forms of justice and injustice within socio-political constructs. Further direct engagement is necessary to begin to synthesize and integrate the knowledge and skills necessary to develop oneself as an active agent for change and responsible citizen. Therefore, emphasis will be placed on observing and analyzing the efficacy of strategies for individual resistance and social action. Prereq: SJUS 100.

SJUS 398. Social Justice Capstone Project. 3 Units.
In this course, students will identify and develop a project that addresses a relevant justice issue. Students will apply knowledge from historical and theoretical justice frameworks, and emphasis is placed on critical analysis of the issue. Students will have the opportunity to engage with stakeholders in a community based immersion experience in local, national or international settings. This culmination course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate foundational skills facilitating social change from diverse community, academic, and professional perspectives. Finally, students will work to select and perhaps implement remedies such as individual resistance, policy, advocacy and social action, and collective struggle to address the respective injustice. Counts as SAGES Senior Capstone. Prereq: SJUS 100.