

Interdisciplinary Minor/Diploma in Social Justice Studies

Aims of the Social Justice Studies Program

- To provide students with a thorough understanding of the range of ways in which scholars, researchers and activists address and engage with issues surrounding social injustices and initiatives promoting social justice in the contemporary world.
- To help advance UVic's vision, which includes "employing our core strengths to benefit our external communities", "promoting civic engagement and global citizenship" and valuing "equal rights and dignity of all persons" (UVic Strategic Plan).

Core courses in the program include . . .

SJS 100 Introduction to Theories of Social Justice

SJS 200 Introduction to the Practice of Social Justice

SJS 400A Seminar in Social Justice Studies

SJS 400B Practicing Social Justice in the Field

Contact

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It starts with you.



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Copenhagen Demonstration - 2006

“We all want to change the world,”
wrote John Lennon, and the University of
Victoria now has a program for people with the
same aspiration. Launched in September 2009,
UVic’s Social Justice Studies is the first Canadian
program of its kind west of Saskatchewan.

SJS is available to undergrads both as a Minor and as a free-standing Diploma. The Diploma is also available to participants who already hold an undergraduate degree or who have a combination of education and relevant work/life experience. The program takes up the full range of social justice issues from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. It focuses both on the conditions that create and perpetuate various kinds of inequality and oppression — class, environmental, racial, gender, sexual etc. — and on the social movements, policies and visions that strive to create a just world.

UVic Social Justice Studies provides a space in which its students can develop critical, penetrating analyses and skills for engaging in social justice politics. Students select courses from a wide range of fields, from anthropology and child and youth care to philosophy, social work and women’s studies. A Social Justice Studies Minor can be paired with a Major in practically any area, combining interdisciplinary social justice learning with a specific discipline. Whatever one’s vocational or academic aspirations, SJS furnishes a common ground for understanding our troubled world and exploring alternative futures.

Why Take Social Justice Studies?

The most compelling reason to take Social Justice Studies is for its intrinsic value. We live in a world in crisis, a world facing enormous social, political and ecological challenges. Social Justice Studies provides critical perspectives on these challenges and on the possibilities for moving beyond unjust and unsustainable ways of life.

Besides intrinsic value, SJS offers considerable practical value. Our program has been designed to complement and enhance your Major field of study. A Bachelor’s degree in History, Sociology, Social Work, or for that matter, Earth and Ocean Science can be paired with the Minor or Diploma in Social Justice Studies to deepen and broaden your understanding of social and political issues; as well as to strengthen your qualifications for a great range of graduate programs, professional schools and occupations.

The emphasis within SJS on experiential learning (including SJS 400B, an optional practicum) promotes both personal growth and development of practical skills. A Minor or Diploma in Social Justice Studies will broaden career opportunities while improving the effectiveness of advocacy work or social activism in areas such as human rights, community development, environmental protection, inter-cultural communication, conflict resolution and development in the global south.