

## **SOCIAL RELATIONS AND POLICY**

The Social Relations and Policy major explores the domain of public issues that are especially affected by relations among groups. The major is explicitly historical and comparative, looking at Social Relations and Policy in the United States and internationally, over time. Courses focus on the sociology, history, and politics of intergroup relations, paying close attention to the interplay of such factors as class, race, ethnicity, sex/gender, religious belief and national identity. The program uses the study of Social Relations and Policy as a way to cultivate reasoning, methodological and analytical skills and the capacities for empathetic observation, normative judgment and effective problem solving.

The sophomore sequence provides the conceptual, methodological and substantive bases for upper division work by introducing students to classical and contemporary social theory and comparative social history, and to quantitative and qualitative methodologies. The junior level builds on these skills to assess, in depth, a set of social problems and policy solutions. A senior seminar provides an opportunity to synthesize course work and undertake original research. Students also select from a broad range of electives to develop their expertise and understanding including opportunities for more international and comparative work, greater political analysis, and deeper understanding of particular forms of Social Relations and Policy. A related area requirement is broadly constructed to shape the major in a way that is responsive to individual interests and academic purpose.

Substantively, courses in Social Relations and Policy take up issues such as social identity, inequality and mobility, wealth and poverty, assimilation and pluralism, prejudice and discrimination, intergroup conflict and cooperation, the problem of civil rights and the politics of equality. Students develop knowledge in such areas as immigration, race and ethnic relations, civil rights, family and children, housing and residential segregation, urban and metropolitan policy, schooling and educational policy, social security and social welfare policies. The graduates go into careers such as law, non-profit leadership, labor relations, human resources administration, teaching, educational administration, public lobbying, and much more.

### **Requirements for a major in Social Relations and Policy**

#### **All of the following (20/21 credits):**

MC 280: Social Theory & Social Relations and Policy (4 cr.)

MC 281: Immigrants, Minorities, and American Pluralism (4 cr.)

MC 380: Social Policy (4 cr.)

MC 498: Senior Seminar in Social Relations and Policy (4 cr.)

SOC 281: Methods of Social Research (4 cr.) or MC 295: Research Design and Quantitative Analysis in Public Policy (4 cr.) or ANP 429:

Ethnographic Field Methods (3 cr.) or CJ 292: Methods of Criminal Justice Research (3 cr.) or COM 300: Methods of Communication

inquiry (4 cr.) or EC 420: Introduction to Econometric Methods or GEO 221: Introduction to Geographic Information (3 cr.) or PLS 201:

Introduction to Methods of Political Analysis (4 cr.) or PSY 295: Data Analysis in Psychological Research (3 cr.) or STT 200: Statistical

Methods (3 cr.) or STT 201: Statistical Methods (3 cr.) or STT 315: Introduction to Probability and Statistics (3 cr.) or STT 421: Statistics I

(3 cr.)

#### **Three (3) of the following selected in consultation with an academic advisor (12 credits)**

MC 319: Asian American History (3 cr.)

MC 320: Politics, Society and Economy in the Third World (4 cr.)

MC 325: State and Society in Comparative Perspective (4 cr.)

MC 333: Performance, Politics, and Nation (4 cr.)

MC 334: Rights, Advocacy, and Activism (4 cr.)

MC 335: Israeli Politics, Cultures and Society (4 cr.)

MC 337: Global Public Health (4 cr.)

MC 338: Environmental Justice & Global Change (4 cr.)

MC 340: Economic Growth (4 cr.)

MC 342: The Social Economics of the Workplace (4 cr.)

MC 347: Urban and Regional Development (4 cr.)

MC 348: Educational Policy (4 cr.)

MC 350: Evolution and Society (4 cr.)

MC 351: Science and Science Policy (4 cr.)

MC 364: Policy Evaluation (4 cr.)

MC 367: Global Cities and Urbanism (4 cr.)

MC 368: The Civil Rights Movement and its Legacies (4 cr.)

MC 369: Global Issues in Citizenship (4 cr.)

MC 372: Comparative Black Political Thought (4 cr.)

MC 375: Contemporary Developments in American Politics (4 cr.)

MC 377: Culture, Politics, and Post-Colonialism (4 cr.)

MC 378: Law and Social Groups (4 cr.)

MC 381: American Politics and Equality (4 cr.)

MC 382: Social Movements (4 cr.)

MC 383: African American Politics (4 cr.)

MC 384: Metropolitan Society (4 cr.)

MC 385: Comparative Race and Ethnic Relations (4 cr.)

MC 386: Women & Power in Comparative Perspective (4 cr.)

MC 387: Jews and Anti-Semitism (4 cr.)

MC 388: Sexual Politics: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives (4 cr.)

MC 389: Religious Politics in U.S. Society: Left, Right and Other (4 cr.)

MC 390: Advanced Special Topics (topic must have SRP content) (4 cr.)

MC 391: Selected Topics in Public Affairs (3 or 4 cr.)

MC 395: Cultural Dimensions of Public Affairs (must have SRP content) (4 cr.)

MC 445: Socio-Economics of Conservation Ecology (4 cr.)

MC 482: Gender and Violent Conflict (4 cr.)

**Recommended Clusters:**Local, Regional and State Politics

MC 348: Educational Policy  
 MC 364: Policy Evaluation  
 MC 381: American Politics and Equality  
 MC 384: Metropolitan Society  
 MC 390: Advanced Topics in Public Affairs  
 [when relevant in consultation with advisor]

American Society and American Politics

MC 348: Educational Policy  
 MC 368: The Civil Rights Movement and its Legacies  
 MC 375: Contemporary Developments in American Politics  
 MC 381: American Politics and Equality  
 MC 382: Social Movements  
 MC 383: African American Politics  
 MC 384: Metropolitan Society  
 MC 388: Sexual Politics  
 MC 390: Advanced Topics in Public Affairs  
 [when relevant in consultation with advisor]

Public Policy and Political Economy

MC 348: Educational Policy  
 MC 364: Policy Evaluation  
 MC 367: Global Cities and Urbanism  
 MC 381: American Politics and Equality  
 MC 384: Metropolitan Society  
 MC 390: Advanced Topics in Public Affairs  
 [when relevant in consultation with advisor]

Institutions and Public Policy

MC 337: Global Public Health  
 MC 338: Environmental Justice  
 MC 348: Educational Policy  
 MC 375: Contemporary Developments in American Politics  
 MC 378: Law and Social Groups  
 MC 381: American Politics and Equality  
 MC 382: Social Movements  
 MC 388: Sexual Politics  
 MC 390: Advanced Topics in Public Affairs  
 [when relevant in consultation with advisor]

Sex and Gender

MC 378: Law and Social Groups  
 MC 382: Social Movements  
 MC 386: Women and Power in Comparative Perspective  
 MC 388: Sexual Politics  
 MC 482: Gender and Violent Conflict

Comparative Study of Societies

MC 320: Politics, Society, and Economy in the Third World  
 MC 325: State and Society in Comparative Perspective  
 MC 334: Rights, Advocacy and Activism  
 MC 338: Environmental Justice  
 MC 377: Culture, Politics, and Postcolonialism  
 MC 385: Comparative Race and Ethnic Relations  
 MC 386: Women and Power in Comparative Perspective  
 MC 387: Jews and Anti-Semitism  
 MC 390: Advanced Topics in Public Affairs  
 [when relevant in consultation with advisor]

Race, Ethnicity, and Nationalism

MC 319: Asian American History  
 MC 333: Performance, Politics and Nation  
 MC 334: Rights, Advocacy and Activism  
 MC 338: Environmental Justice  
 MC 368: The Civil Rights Movement and its Legacies  
 MC 372: Comparative Black Political Thought  
 MC 377: Culture, Politics, and Postcolonialism  
 MC 381: American Politics and Equality  
 MC 382: Social Movements  
 MC 383: African American Politics  
 MC 385: Comparative Race and Ethnic Relations  
 MC 387: Jews and Anti-Semitism  
 MC 390: Advanced Topics in Public Affairs  
 [when relevant in consultation with advisor]

Culture and Social Change

MC 319: Asian American History  
 MC 333: Performance, Politics and Nation  
 MC 334: Rights, Advocacy and Activism  
 MC 338: Environmental Justice  
 MC 368: The Civil Rights Movement and its Legacies  
 MC 369: Global Citizenship  
 MC 377: Culture, Politics, and Postcolonialism  
 MC 388: Sexual Politics

Global Social Change

MC 319: Asian American History  
 MC 334: Rights, Advocacy and Activism  
 MC 337: Global Public Health  
 MC 338: Environmental Justice  
 MC 367: Global Cities and Urbanism  
 MC 369: Global Citizenship  
 MC 377: Culture, Politics, and Postcolonialism  
 MC 482: Gender and Violent Conflict

**Related Discipline or Area Requirement:**

Students must complete two to three additional courses (6-9 cr.) in a related discipline (e.g. Anthropology, Economics, History, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology) or approved related area (e.g. Ethnicity and Race, Gender and Women's Studies, Urban/Metropolitan Studies, or U.S. Politics). These courses must be at 300-400 level. Courses may be selected in other majors in James Madison College as well.

In addition to the requirements outlined above, students are responsible for the following requirements: Integrative Studies, Math Requirement, Language Requirement, Economics Requirement, Field Experience and Electives.

**TOTAL CREDITS TO GRADUATE: 120**

## **Examples of Social Relations & Policy Senior Seminars (MC 498)**

American Health Care and Policy - This senior seminar will explore health care and health policy in the American health care system. The course will address the history of health care, the development of health care policy, and the boundaries of access to health care. As with other social policy, American health care is a mix of both market and public provisions, and students will learn the basics of health care organization and financing. We will also consider the experiences of different stakeholders, including patients and providers, and how different factors, including race, class, gender identity, gender and geography, affect access. The Affordable Care Act (2010) and the continued debates about how to best provide for health care, and whether health care is a right or one to be purchased by individuals, will be central. The Covid-19 pandemic, and what it reveals about the US health care system and vaccines, will also be a topic. Debates over the role of the government – federal, state and local – both in the provision of care as well as policy will be key.

Climate Change: Pasts, Presents & (Hopeful?) Futures - Climate change is the defining challenge of our time and an existential threat to life as we know it. And it is also an opportunity for us to reimagine and enact a more equitable, just, sustainable, and hopeful world. In this course, we will examine the roots and unequal realities of climate change, and we will draw on diverse voices and perspectives to imagine a future we want to live in and explore the possibilities for getting there.

We begin by asking: what is climate change and how did we get here? We will go beyond emissions, alone, to examine the historical roots and logics of the system that produces them. We then turn to the various effects and highly unequal present-day experiences of climate change, from rising seas and ‘natural’ disasters to climate migration and food insecurity. We will interrogate influential climate narratives and search for silences, asking whose perspectives and interests they serve (and whose they don’t), and why it matters that problems and policy solutions are framed through such lenses.

Finally, we ask: where do we go from here, and how do we get there? We will explore a diversity of perspectives and pathways, from corporate-led technological fixes to conceptions of the ‘pluriverse’ and Indigenous-led movements to reimagine our relationships to the land, each other, and non-human life. In doing so, we will reflect on what we, as individuals, can do in the face of a global crisis to help foster a more just, equitable, sustainable, and hopeful future.

The Holocaust in American Memory - This class focuses on a chronological analysis of the United States’ actions during and after the Holocaust. In it, we will address US international and educational policy, official and unofficial memorial culture, and popular culture in the forms of literature, television, and film. During the course of this class, we will discuss questions such as: How does the Holocaust live on in American remembrance? Why should the United States be so invested in the memory of a European genocide? What kinds of stories do Americans tell about the Holocaust? How does the US educational system approach teaching the Holocaust? What is the role of Holocaust museums and memorials in Holocaust remembrance? Students will contribute to a blog on the Holocaust in popular culture started by MC 498 students several years ago. Ultimately, students will be guided through a major research project on a topic of their choosing related to the course.

**SOCIAL RELATIONS AND POLICY**

Below is a checklist for students in the Social Relations and Policy major who began in SRP Fall 2019 or after. This sheet is meant to help students visualize how the various parts of the curriculum fit together. Transfer students who are still taking courses at other institutions should choose classes that may be applied toward MSU's Integrative Studies requirements, MSU's math requirement, if necessary, or Madison's foreign language and economics requirements.

Integrative Studies:

MC 111 \_\_\_\_\_ MC 201 \_\_\_\_\_ ISP \_\_\_\_\_ IAH (201-210) \_\_\_\_\_  
 MC 202 \_\_\_\_\_ ISB \_\_\_\_\_ IAH (211 or higher) \_\_\_\_\_ +MATH \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lab \_\_\_\_\_

Foreign Language: \_\_\_\_\_ Economics: 201 \_\_\_\_\_ or 251H \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 202 \_\_\_\_\_ or 252H \_\_\_\_\_

Field Experience: \_\_\_\_\_ MC 400 \_\_\_\_\_ MC 401 \_\_\_\_\_

Social Relations and Policy Core Program:

All of the following: Methods: SOC 281 \_\_\_\_\_ MC 295 \_\_\_\_\_  
 MC 280 \_\_\_\_\_ (Choose One) ANP 429 \_\_\_\_\_ CJ 292 \_\_\_\_\_  
 MC 281 \_\_\_\_\_ EC 420 \_\_\_\_\_ GEO 221 \_\_\_\_\_  
 MC 380 \_\_\_\_\_ PLS 201 \_\_\_\_\_ PSY 295 \_\_\_\_\_  
 MC 498 \_\_\_\_\_ COM 300 \_\_\_\_\_  
 STT 200/201/315/421\*\* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*\*May not double count for MSU MTH requirement

**Students must choose a cluster in consultation with an advisor prior to enrolling in 300-level SRP courses:**

Title of cluster: \_\_\_\_\_

**The cluster must consist of three of the following SRP elective courses:**

MC 319 _____	MC 340 _____	MC 368 _____	MC 383 _____	MC 391* _____
MC 320 _____	MC 342 _____	MC 369 _____	MC 384 _____	MC 395 _____
MC 325 _____	MC 347 _____	MC 372 _____	MC 385 _____	MC 445 _____
MC 333 _____	MC 348 _____	MC 375 _____	MC 386 _____	MC 482 _____
MC 334 _____	MC 350 _____	MC 377 _____	MC 387 _____	
MC 335 _____	MC 351 _____	MC 378 _____	MC 388 _____	
MC 337 _____	MC 364 _____	MC 381 _____	MC 389 _____	
MC 338 _____	MC 367 _____	MC 382 _____	MC 390* _____	

\* Must have SRP approval

Related Area:

Two-three course (6-9 credits) in a related discipline (e.g. Anthropology, Economics, History, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology) OR approved related area (e.g. Ethnicity and Race, Gender and Women's Studies, Urban/Metropolitan Society, or U.S. Politics) beyond the introductory level (i.e., 300-400 level).

Related Discipline or Area: \_\_\_\_\_ Courses: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED TO GRADUATE: 120**

Minimum number of MC credits required: 51. For transfer and teacher education students: 41.  
 +A minimum score of 19 on MSU Placement exam or selected MTH or STT course(s)  
 -Teacher Education: Geography and History requirements for all majors are listed in the MC handbook under Teacher Education

Semester: \_\_\_\_\_


Semester: \_\_\_\_\_


Semester: \_\_\_\_\_


Semester: \_\_\_\_\_


Semester: \_\_\_\_\_


Semester: \_\_\_\_\_


Semester: \_\_\_\_\_


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Semester: \_\_\_\_\_


Semester: \_\_\_\_\_


Semester: \_\_\_\_\_
