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 (3 cr.)
- 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 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 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 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 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 second language and economics requirements.

Integrative Studies:
MC 111 _____  MC 201 _____  ISP _____  IAH (201-210) _____
MC 202 _____  ISB _____  IAH (211 or higher) _____  +MATH _____
Lab _____

Second Language:  _______________  Economics:  201 _____  or  251H _____
________  or  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 350 _____  MC 377 _____  MC 387 _____
MC 320 _____  MC 351 _____  MC 378 _____  MC 388 _____
MC 325 _____  MC 364 _____  MC 381 _____  MC 390* _____
MC 334 _____  MC 367 _____  MC 382 _____  MC 391* _____
MC 335 _____  MC 368 _____  MC 383 _____  MC 395 _____
MC 337 _____  MC 369 _____  MC 384 _____  MC 445 _____
MC 338 _____  MC 372 _____  MC 385 _____  MC 482 _____
MC 348 _____  MC 375 _____  MC 386 _____

* 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: 47. 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester: Fall Semester 1</th>
<th>Semester: Spring Semester 1</th>
<th>Semester: _______________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MC 111</td>
<td>MC 202</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 cr</td>
<td>4 cr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC 201</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 cr</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>