



**P13752**  
**Ethics and Social Justice**  
**Minor (Minor)**

**The queue for this request is:**

- Department Head/Program Coordinator
- Division Chair
- Division Curriculum/Graduate Chair
- Curriculum Committee
- Faculty Senate
- Dean (LAS)
- Provost
- President
- External

New

Requestor: Mark Perlman  
Submitted: 2021-02-09 16:01:52  
Submitting as: Faculty Member or APA

Request for a: Program  
Level Undergraduate  
Type of Request: New (course, program, focus/concentration, or temporary course)  
Will this be offered within an existing division or department? Yes  
Type of program Minor  
Division Humanities  
Department/Program Philosophy  
Is this curricular change driven by assessment data you have collected? No  
Summary/Rationale for proposal

**Minor in Ethics and Social Justice**

This minor would be an avenue for addressing social justice issues by focusing on theoretical foundations of ethics and social justice, as well as instilling knowledge and skills related to advocacy, policy, and research in movements of social change, civil disobedience, resistance, and administration of justice. The curriculum will expose students to a foundation in critical thinking, ethical theory, and social problems. Electives in areas of Anthropology, Criminal Justice, Communication Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, and Sociology will allow students to study area-specific topics to intersect their particular demographic or social concerns.

A minor in Ethics and Social Justice is very timely, as conflicts about social justice, race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation are increasingly prevalent in modern society. In the past year we have seen nationwide and global protests concerning police brutality, white supremacy, and systems of oppression. Students have shown increased interest in ways of enacting social change and eliminating racism, sexism, ethnic oppression, homophobia and transphobia, and other modes of treating people unjustly. Social activism is in full swing, from the Womens%u2019 Marches, to Black Lives Matter protests, to activism for environmental responsibility. The younger generation is on the forefront of these movements now more than at any time since the 1960s, and background in ethics, critical thinking, and social justice would assist in making informed criticisms of social policies but also fostering more effective social protest.

Title of new program, requirement, focus, or concentration Ethics and Social Justice Minor  
Mission, Learning Outcomes, Etc.

**Professors:** Susan Daniel, Ryan Hickerson, Mark Perlman

**Mission**

Create and provide a unique learning experience to empower students with the knowledge, skills, empathy, and understanding of ethics, social problems, and social justice. This process will enable students to be better informed of conditions of social injustice and better able to become activists for social justice and make positive changes in their communities.

**Learning Outcomes**

- Develop an understanding of social and political forces and injustices that are present in today%u2019s world. (Integrative Learning)
- Develop critical thinking skills to better comprehend social justice issues and better construct effective arguments for change. (Integrative Learning)
- Develop personal and social responsibility and ability to effectively engage in activism for social change. (Diversity)
- Develop cultural competence and socially-conscious worldview. (Diversity)

Description

This minor would be an avenue for addressing social justice issues by focusing on theoretical foundations of ethics and social justice, as well as instilling knowledge and skills related to advocacy, policy, and research in movements of social change, civil disobedience,

resistance, and administration of justice. The curriculum will expose students to a foundation in critical thinking, ethical theory, and social problems. Electives in areas of Anthropology, Criminal Justice, Communication Studies, Geography, Philosophy, Political Science, and Sociology will allow students to study area-specific topics to intersect with particular areas of demographic or social concerns that interest them.

This area of study is very timely in light of recent events including nationwide and global protests concerning police brutality, white supremacy, and systems of oppression. Students have shown increased interest in ways of enacting social change and eliminating racism, sexism, ethnic oppression, homophobia and transphobia, and other modes of treating people unjustly, as well as awareness of the need for protecting the environment and reversing global warming.

### **Core Courses**

PHL 100 Critical Thinking (Credits:4)

PHL 253 Civil Disobedience and Justice (Credits:4)

PHL 350 Social and Political Philosophy (Credits:4)

### **Choose One:**

PHL 102 Personal Morality and Social Justice (Credits:4)

PHL 251 Ethics (Credits:4)

### **Electives - Choose Two:**

ANTH 372 Social Constructions of Race (Credits:4)

CJ 445 Race and Social Justice (Credits:4)

COM 321 Influence Through Argument (Credits:4)

COM 342 Media Literacy (Credits:4)

COM 370 Communication Ethics (Credits:4)

COM 402 Rhetoric, Race, Resistance (Credits:4)

COM 442 Communication and Social Change (Credits:4)

GEOG 330 Geography and Social Justice (Credits:4)

GEOG 331 Environmental Justice (Credits:4)

PHL 255 Environmental Ethics (Credits:4)

PHL 380 Philosophy of Law (Credits:4)

PS 355 Civic Literacy and Engagement (Credits:4)

PS 441 Causes of Peace (Credits:4)

PS 442 Peacebuilding and Policymaking (Credits:4)

PS 443 Great Peacemakers (Credits:4)

PS 494 Human Rights (Credits:4)

SOC 225 Social Problems (Credits:3)

SOC 340 Community Organizing (Credits:3)

SOC 341 Community Action (Credits:3)

SOC 427 Revolutionary Social Movements (Credits:3)  
 SOC 434 African American Studies: Social Issues, Social Movements (Credits:3)  
 SOC 435 Chicano/a/Latino/a Studies: Social Issues, Social Movements (Credits:3)  
 SOC 436 Native American/Asian American Studies: Social Issues, Social Movements (Credits:3)  
 SOC 437 Sociology of Race/Ethnic Relations (Credits:3)  
 SOC 465 Introduction to LGBTQ Studies (Credits:3)  
 SSC 201 Introduction to Gender Studies (Credits:3)

Total Credits: 22 - 24

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Catalog ID:

Programs affected/consulted

The courses in Philosophy are regularly taught, and the elective courses other departments are also. We have contacted the heads of Communications Studies, Political Science, and Sociology, and have not received any reason to think that including courses from those areas would be any problem for them. This new minor program would not be adding enough many extra students into any of them to cause any enrollment problems, and in fact might be beneficial to those other departments.

Faculty and Facilities Needed (for Dean review only)

The new minor could be taught with existing faculty in philosophy and the other areas of the electives. No new costs could be incurred.

Notes/Comments

As with all academic programs in the university, student learning outcomes will be annually assessed. The evidence will be aggregated and reported consistently to facilitate continuous improvement. The assessment work will be managed by the faculty in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies.

Supporting Documents

| Thumbnail | Name   | Size   | Actions |
|-----------|--|--------|---------|
|           | <a href="#">HECC-New-Academic-Program-Proposal_Ethics and Social Justice Minor_Feb 2021.docx</a> | 104135 |         |

**Related Courses:**

No related courses found

Department head/Program coordinator decision:

✓ Yes by Mark Perlman (2021-02-09 16:04:25)

*Comments:* Slightly revised version of earlier proposal, and now with HECC form included.

Division chair decision:

✓ Yes by Paula Baldwin (2021-02-09 16:13:34)

*Comments:*

Division curriculum chair decision:

✓ Yes by Lars Soderlund (2021-02-09 20:11:30)

*Comments:*

Curriculum Committee Decision:

✓ Yes by Laurie Burton (2021-02-19 13:06:13)

*Comments:* If the SOC credit changes are approved, SOC 340, 341, 435, 437, 465 should reflect 4 credits and not 3 in the course listings, this may need to be changed after the Faculty Senate vote.

Senate Decision: Pending:

Sent to Leigh Graziano (grazianoI@wou.edu), on: 2021-02-19 13:06:13

LAS Dean Decision:

Pending: Kathy Cassity (cassityk@wou.edu),

Provost/VPAA Decision: Pending: Rob Winningham (winninr@wou.edu),

President Decision: Pending: Rex Fuller (rfuller@wou.edu),

Entered into appropriate systems by registrar's office: Pending: Amy Clark (clarkaj@wou.edu),

Entered into catalog: Pending: Susan Hays (hayss@wou.edu),