# 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 (16 credits):**
MC 280: Social Theory and Social Relations (4 cr.)
MC 281: Immigrants, Minorities, and American Pluralism (4 cr.)
MC 380: Social Policy (4 cr.)
MC 498: Senior Seminar in Social Relations (4 cr.)

**One of the following (3-4 credits):**
SOC 281: Social Research Methods (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 (4 cr.) or STT 315: Introduction to Probability and Statistics for Business (3 cr.) or STT 421: Statistics I (3 cr.)

**Three (3) of the following selected in consultation with an academic advisor (12 credits)**
MC 294: Qualitative Research Methods (4 cr.)
MC 319: Asian American History (3 cr.)
MC 320: Problems and Paradoxes in Global Development (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 and Global Change (4 cr.)
MC 342: Social Economics of the Workplace: Class, Race, and Gender (4 cr.)
MC 348: Educational Policy (4 cr.)
MC 350: Evolution and Society (4 cr.)
MC 351: Science and Social Policy (4 cr.)
MC 364: Quantitative Methods for Policy Analysis: Intermediate Level (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.)

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MC 384: Metropolitan Society (4 cr.)
MC 385: Comparative Race and Ethnic Relations (4 cr.)
MC 386: Women and 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 390: Advanced Topics in Public Affairs (topics must have SRP content) (4 cr.)
MC 391: Selected Topics in Public Affairs (topics must have SRP content) (3 or 4 cr.)
MC 445: Biodiversity Conservation Policy and Practice (4 cr.)
MC 482: Gender and Violent Conflict (4 cr.)

**Recommended Clusters**

Local, Regional and State Politics
MC 348: Educational Policy
MC 364: Quantitative Methods for Policy Analysis: Intermediate Level
MC 381: American Politics and Equality
MC 384: Metropolitan Study
MC 390: Advanced Topics in Public Affairs
[when relevant in consultation with advisor]

American Society and American Politics
MC 348: Ecucational 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 Study
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: Quantitative Methods for Policy Analysis: Intermediate Level
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: Problems and Paradoxes in Global Development
MC 325: State and Society in Comparative Perspective
MC 334: Rights, Advocacy and Activism
MC 338: Environmental Justice
MC 377: Culture, Politics, and Post-Colonialism
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 Post-Colonialism
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 Post-Colonialism
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 Post-Colonialism
MC 482: Gender and Violent Conflict

# SOCIAL RELATIONS AND POLICY

**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 and 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 CHECKLIST

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

MC 100 _____ Second Language: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Economics: EC 201 _____ or EC 251H _____ EC 202 _____ or EC 252H _____

**One of the following is required.** Meet with field experience coordinator to see best option.

Field Experience: Internship (MC 400/MC 401)_____ Study Abroad _____ Senior Honors Thesis_____

Social Relations and Policy Core Program:

All of the following:

MC 280 _____ MC 281 _____ MC 380 _____ MC 498 _____

Methods: (choose one)

PLS 201 _____ MC 294** _____ PSY 295 _____ ANP 429 _____
GEO 221 _____ MC 295 _____ COM 300 _____ STT 200/201/3015/421* _____
SOC 281 _____ CJ 292 _____ EC 420 _____

**may not double count for MSU MTH requirement*
***may not be double counted within major*

**Three of the following SRP elective courses are required:**

MC 294 _____
MC 319 _____
MC 320 _____
MC 325 _____
MC 333 _____
MC 334 _____
MC 335 _____
MC 337 _____
MC 338 _____
MC 342 _____
MC 348 _____
MC 350 _____
MC 351 _____
MC 364 _____
MC 367 _____
MC 368 _____
MC 369 _____
MC 372 _____
MC 375 _____
MC 377 _____
MC 378 _____
MC 381 _____
MC 382 _____
MC 383 _____
MC 384 _____
MC 385 _____
MC 386 _____
MC 387 _____
MC 388 _____
MC 390* _____
MC 391* _____
MC 445 _____
MC 482 _____

**must have SRP content*

Related Area:

Two to three courses (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: _____ _____ _____

**120 TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED TO GRADUATE:** ☐ meets requirement

Minimum number of MC credits required: 47. For transfer students: 41.
+A minimum score of 19 on MSU proctored Placement exam or selected MTH or STT course(s).

# SOCIAL RELATIONS AND POLICY CLASS SCHEDULE

Semester: Fall Semester 1

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|---|---|
| MC 100 | 1 cr |
| MC 111 | 4 cr |
| MC 201 | 4 cr |
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Semester: Spring Semester 1

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| MC 202 | 4 cr |
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