

Social Relations & Policy

Welcome to Meet the Major!
November 11, 2025

*Thanks to Avery Riehl for contributions to the design of
this presentation.*

What is Social Relations & Policy?

The major applies social theory and research to contemporary social problems.

Faculty draw from a variety of disciplines and area studies in their teaching and research:

- Sociology
- History
- Literature
- Environmental Studies
- Gender Studies
- Politics and law
- Jewish Studies
- Africana Studies
- Asian American Studies
- LGBTQ+ Studies
- and more!

Sample SRP Courses

- Education Policy
- Environmental Justice and Social Change
- Jews and Anti-Semitism
- Sexual Politics
- Social Movements
- African American Politics
- Metropolitan Society
- Latin American Immigration, U.S. Policy, and Resistance
- Asian American History
- Women and Power in a Comparative Perspective

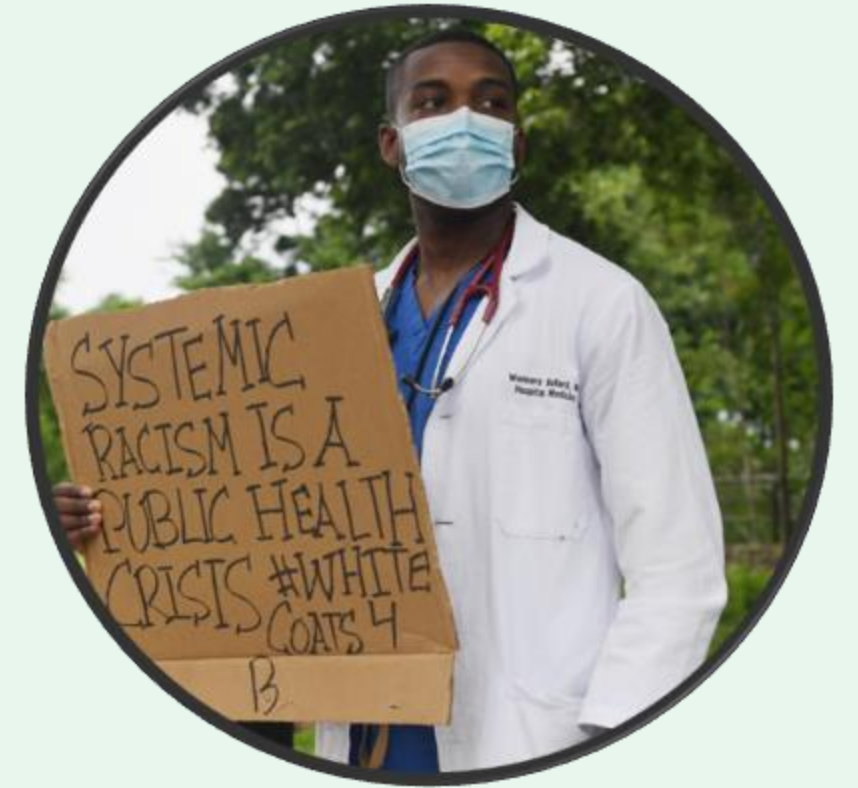
Interesting Questions in SRP

- How do different societies understand racial boundaries, and how has racial inequality changed over time?
- Why do politicians continue to push for border walls when they have been proven ineffective?
- How do social movements move from protest to policy?



Additional interesting questions in SRP

- How does social policy affect the health care you receive?
- How do we understand new waves of white supremacy, antisemitic violence, and Islamophobia in historical context?
- What is the relationship between sustainability and environmental justice?



Meet Some SRP Majors



TAYLOR TOTH

- . PTCB major, minors in History, Business, & European Studies
- . President, JMC Student Senate
- . Empowering Women in Law (EWIL)
- . MSU President; national Vice President
- . Classical Republicanism Study Abroad (Italy)
- . 3x Spartan Volunteer Service Award
- . MSU Homecoming Court



OLIVIA SCHAEFER

Minors in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems, German, and STEPP
Brazil Study Abroad
Internship as a horse wrangler (Montana)
University Learning Assistant in Sociology
Senior Honors Thesis

Meet More SRP Majors



EMILIO PEREZ IBARGUEN

SRP & Journalism double major

State News

Environmental Reporting Intern, Bridge Michigan

Ron Dorr Award for Excellence in Undergraduate

Writing 3rd place (2022)

Associated College Press Reporting Award (2025)



GRACE OLUWOLE

SRP & Broadcast Journalism double major

Creative Advertising Minor

Editor in Chief, *VIM* magazine

Sideline Reporter, Big Ten Network

Social Media Manager, Barstool Network

Tanzania Study Abroad

Communication Arts scholarships

Meet SRP faculty



Gene Burns

The Moral Veto: Framing Contraception, Abortion, and Cultural Pluralism in the U.S.

INTERESTS:

- Social Movements
 - Politics of Abortion
 - Politics of Religion
 - Secularization
 - Church-State Relations
-

COURSES TAUGHT

- MC 280: Social Theory
- MC 380: Social Policy
- MC 348: Educational Policy
- MC 382: Social Movements



Florencia Rojo

Telling the Story of Hillside: Community Memory, Black Cultural Foodways, and Neighborhood Change in Colorado Springs

INTERESTS:

- Participatory Action Research
 - Health Inequalities
 - Immigration
 - Food Justice
 - Intersectionality
-

COURSES TAUGHT

- MC 280: Social Theory
- MC 294: Qualitative Research Methods
- MC 498: Race, Place, and the Food Justice Movement
- MC 390: Latin American Immigration, U.S. Policy, and Resistance



Louise Jezierski

Making Ends Meet: Precarity and the Informal Economy in Greater Lansing during Covid-19

INTERESTS:

- Women's Social Capital
 - Development in Regional Informal Economies
 - Urban Studies
-

COURSES TAUGHT

- MC 280: Social Theory
- MC 380: Social Policy
- MC 367: Global Cities and Urbanism
- MC 384: Metropolitan Society - Detroit



Daniel Ahlquist

Conservation, Land Use Change & Rural Change on the Northern Great Plains

INTERESTS:

- Political Ecology
 - Environmental Justice
 - Agriculture & Food Systems
 - Conservation, Climate Change & Sustainability
 - Inequality
-

COURSES TAUGHT

- MC 338: Environmental Justice & Global Change
- MC 380: Social Policy
- MC 498: Senior Seminar on Climate Change



Allison Berg

Trauma and Testimony in Black Womens Civil Rights Memoirs

INTERESTS:

- The Literature of Social Movements
 - Civil Rights
 - Intersectional Feminism
 - Memoirs by Women of Color
 - Pedagogy
-

COURSES TAUGHT

- MC 281: Immigration and Ethnic History
- MC 368: Civil Rights Movement and its Legacies
- MC 498: The History and Future of Modern Feminism



Anna Pegler-Gordon

Documenting Birthright Citizenship under Chinese Exclusion

INTERESTS:

- U.S. Ethnic and Immigration History
 - Citizenship and Immigration Policy
 - Asian American Studies
 - Public History and K-12 Education
-

COURSES TAUGHT

- MC 281: Immigration and Ethnic History
- MC 319: Asian American History
- MC 498: Immigration Policy



Amy Simon

Emotions in Yiddish Ghetto Diaries

INTERESTS:

- Jewish History
 - Holocaust Studies
 - Interpersonal Relationships During the Holocaust
 - Genocide Studies
-

COURSES TAUGHT

- MC 387: Jews and Antisemitism
- MC 498: The Holocaust in American Memory



Jennifer Sykes

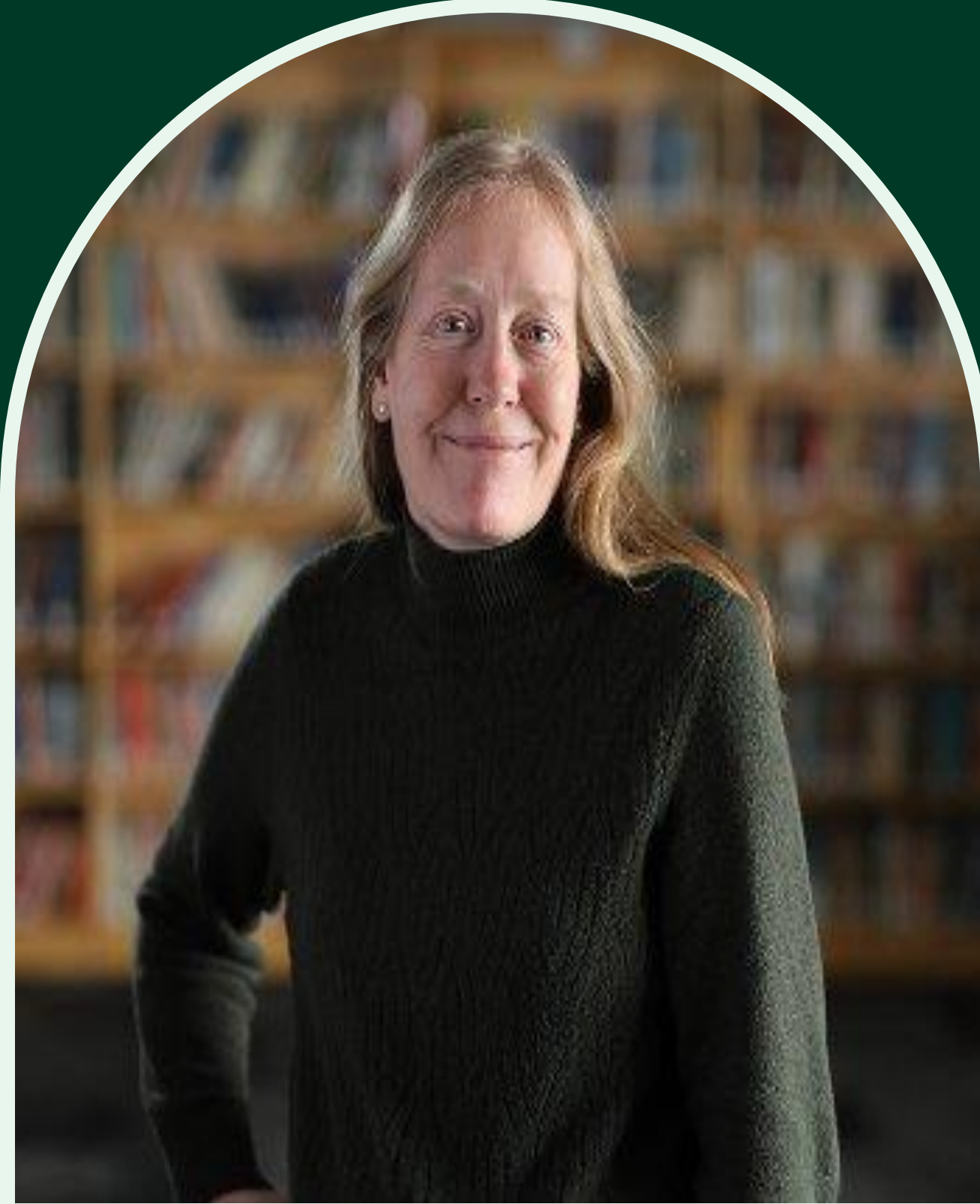
It's Not Like I'm Poor: How Working Class Families Make Ends Meet in a Post-Welfare World

INTERESTS:

- Inequality
 - Poverty
 - The Welfare State
-

COURSES TAUGHT

- MC 380: Social Policy
- MC 381: American Politics and Equality
- MC 498: Senior Seminar on The American Dream
- MC 342 Social Economics of the Workplace: Class, Race, and Gender



Susan Stein-Roggenbuck

Caring for Mom and Dad: Parent Dependency and American Social Policy

INTERESTS:

- History of American Social Policy and Health Care
-

COURSES TAUGHT

- MC 281: Immigration and Ethnic History
- MC 380: Social Policy
- MC 388: Sexual Politics
- MC 498: American Health Care

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

MC 202

ISP

ISB

Lab

IAH (201-210)

IAH (211 or higher)

+MATH

Second Language:

Economics:

201

202

or

251H

252H

Field Experience:

MC 400

MC 401

Social Relations and Policy Core Program:

All of the following:

MC 280

MC 281

MC 380

MC 498

Methods:

(Choose One)

SOC 281

ANP 429

EC 420

PLS 201

COM 300

STT 200/201/315/421**

MC 295

CJ 292

GEO 221

PSY 295

MC 294

+ (new)

MC 294

**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 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

+MC 294 may count for methods or as a selective, but not both

* Must have SRP content

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 students: 41.
+A minimum score of 19 on MSU Placement exam or selected MTH or STT course(s).

UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS (ALL MSU STUDENTS)

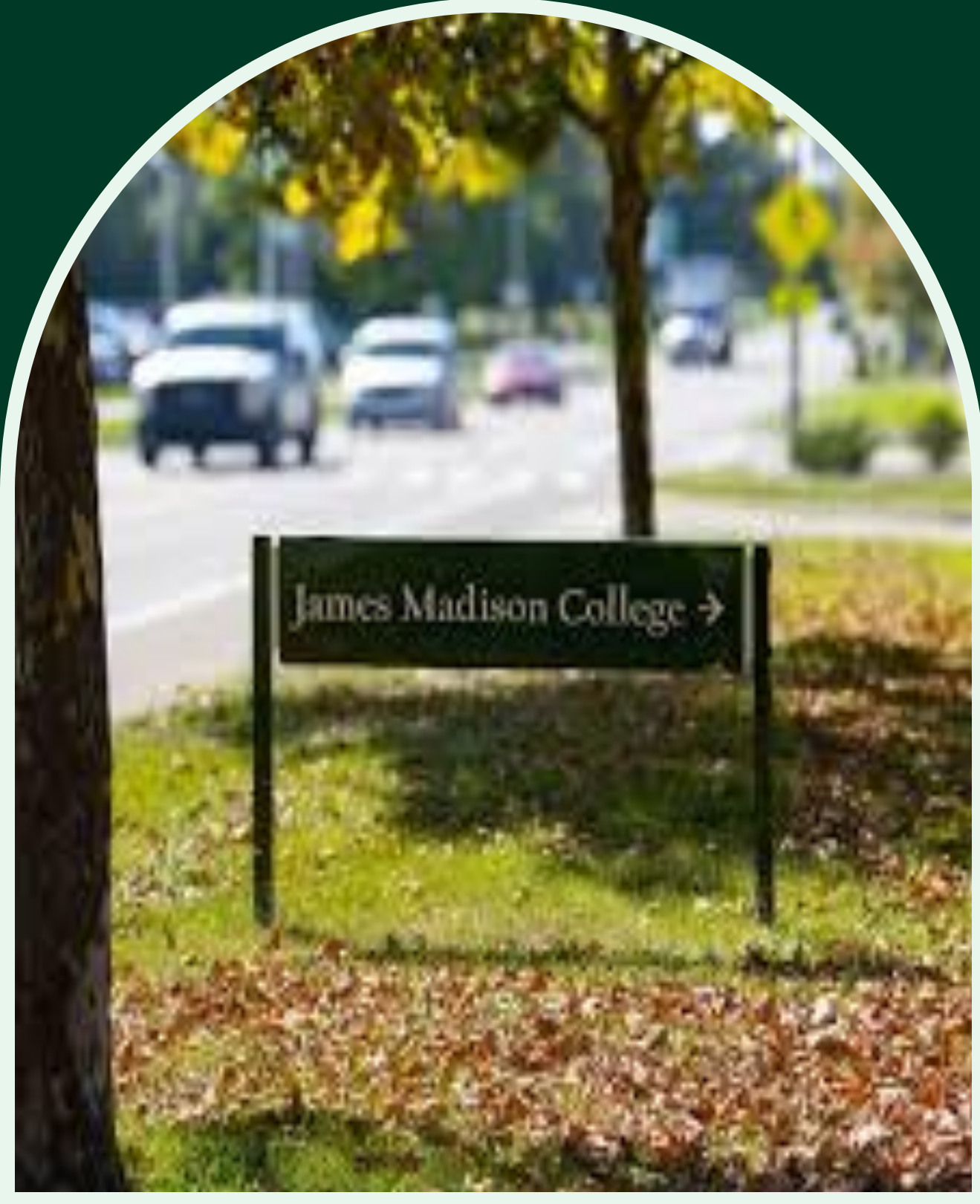
COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS (ALL JMC STUDENTS)

- FOUR REQUIRED SRP CORE COURSES
- SELECT 1 METHODS COURSE

SRP "SELECTIVES" (TAKE ANY THREE)

Please note that the reference to a "cluster" requirement is outdated ; this checklist should be updated soon on the JMC website. A major takes any three SRP selectives/electives; the three do not need to form a "cluster" of similar courses.

All JMC student have a "Related Area" requirement. (Two courses outside the major that inform your SRP studies.)



Crafting a Curriculum

EVERY MADISON MAJOR HAS:

- 7 Required Courses (Core Courses & Selectives)
 - A methods course
 - A Related Area Requirement
-

SO WHAT REALLY DISTINGUISHES THE MADISON MAJORS?

- CONTENT of courses (especially core courses)
- What do you do in the 7 courses as a whole?
- What are your CHOICES?
- How much FLEXIBILITY do you have?

SRP Core Courses

The 7 required SRP classes include four core courses :

- **MC 280: Social Theory and Social Relations**
- **MC 281: Immigrants, Minorities, and American Pluralism**
- **MC 380 Social Policy**
- **MC 498 Senior Seminar** (each section has a different topic)

Recent Senior Seminar Topics:

- The American Dream
- The Holocaust in American Memory
- Environmental Justice: Politics and Policies
- Immigration Policy
- History and Future of Feminism
- Civic Engagement and Community Development in Lansing
- Sex and Law
- Religion, the State, and Politics

The 7 SRP courses include also 3 “selectives.”

- That is, you *select* from a list.
- There are 25-30 selective courses offered regularly (usually at least every two years).
 - Most also count towards another JMC major and/or minor.
 - Talk to your advisor to craft your curriculum to suit your goals/interest
- Selectives include courses on gender, environmental policy, race, economic inequality, social movements, immigration, sociohistorical change, law and society, politics and society, comparative studies, social policy, U.S.-focused courses, and more.

All JMC majors are compatible with a wide range of double majors and minors. (Talk to your advisor to craft your curriculum.)

Among additional majors of recent SRP students:

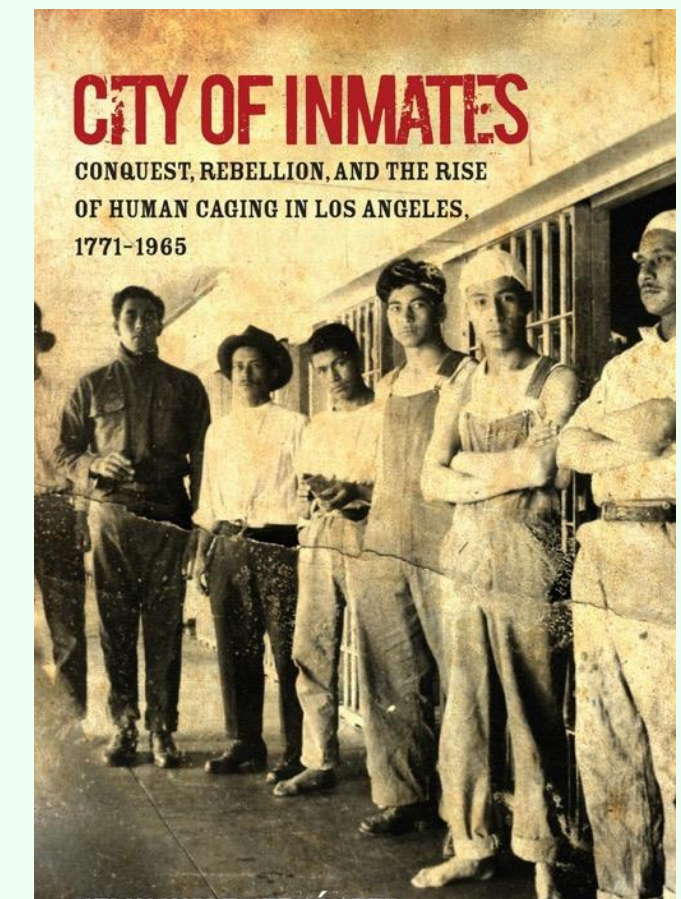
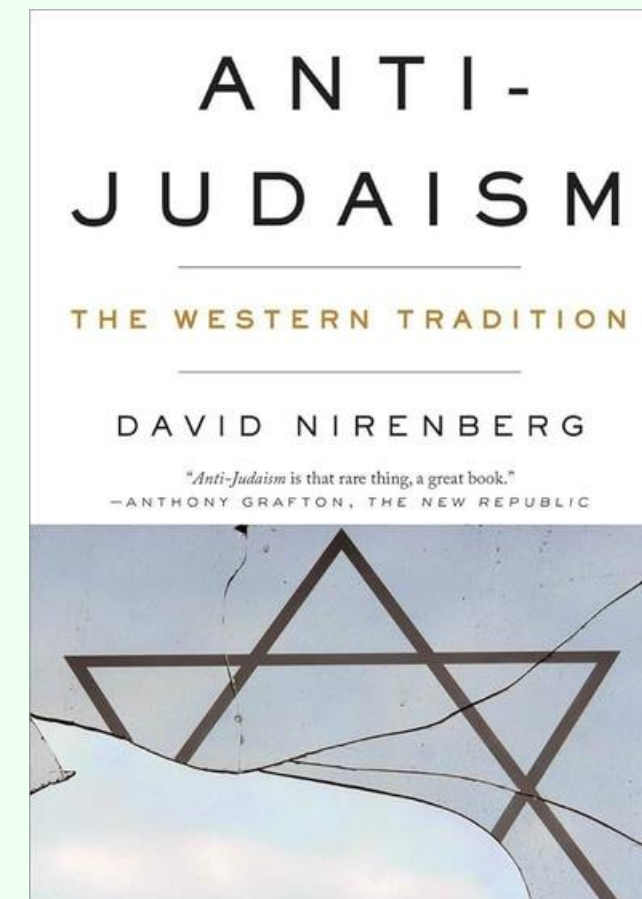
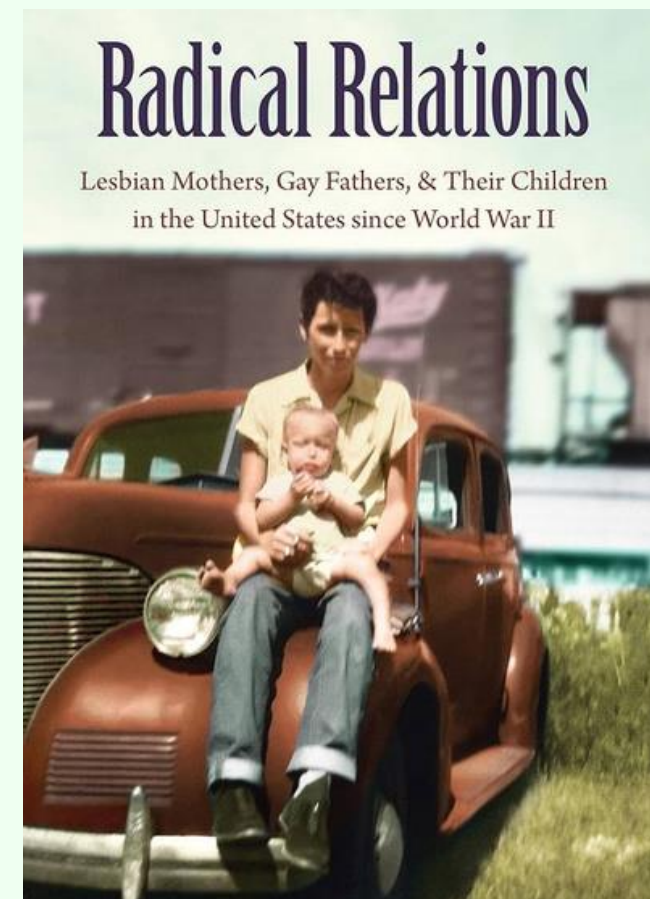
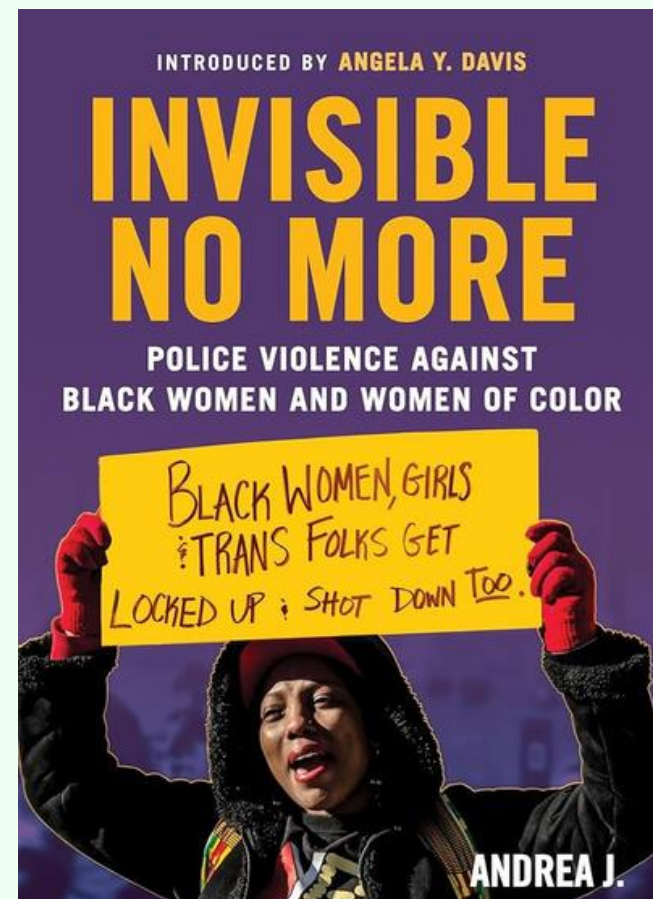
- All JMC majors: CCP, IR, PTCD
- Sociology, Psychology
- Economics, Finance
- Communications
- Marketing
- Women's Studies
- Neuroscience
- Journalism

Minors of recent SRP students

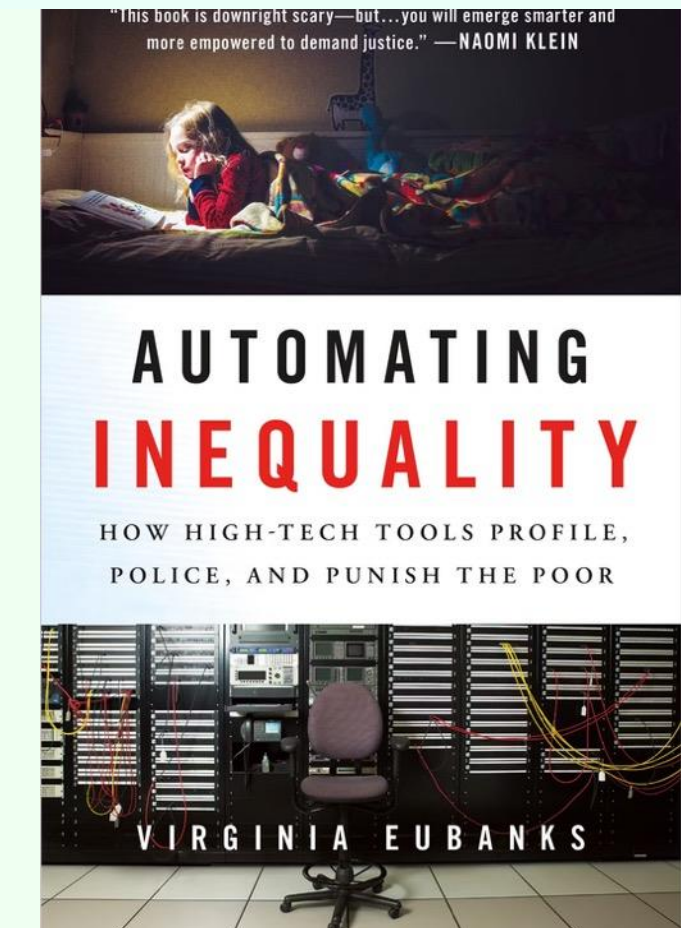
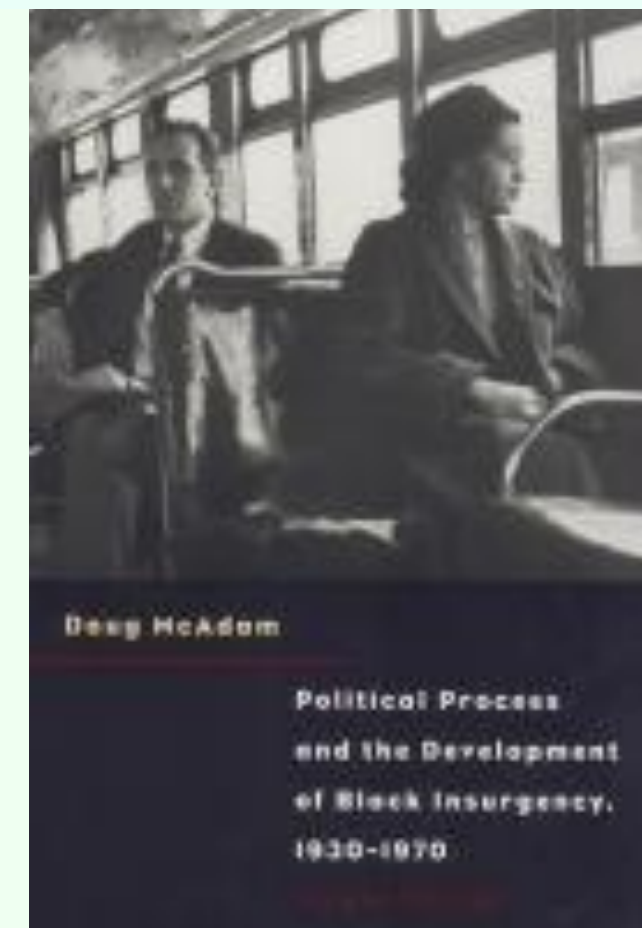
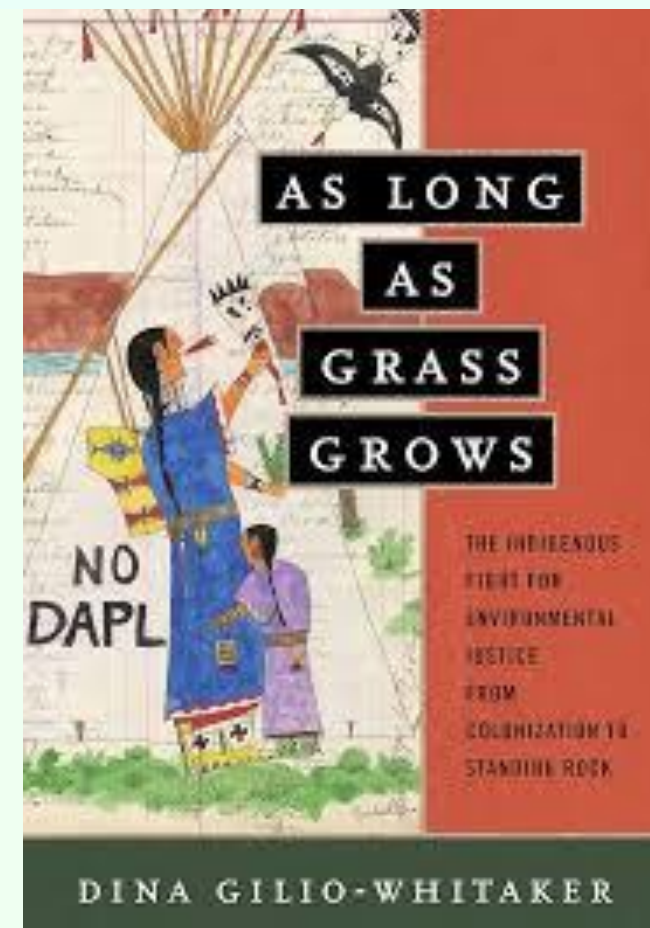
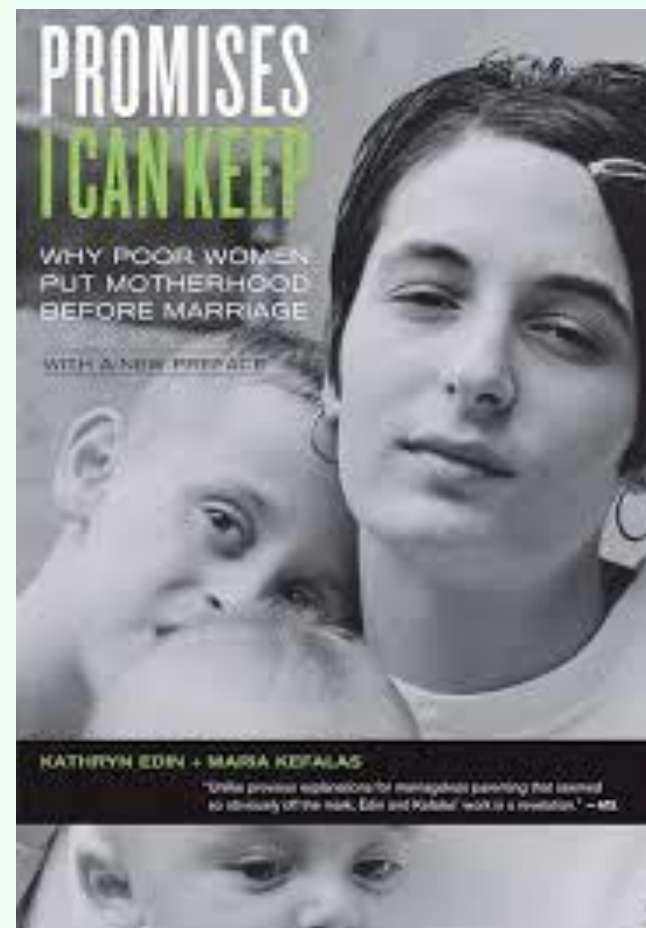
- Housed in JMC: Political Economy, Muslim Studies, Science Policy (STEPP), Western European Studies
- Spanish, German, Arabic
- Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems
- Creative Advertising
- Asian Pacific American Studies
- African American and African Studies
- Jewish Studies
- Peace and Justice Studies
- Film Studies

Other ways to enhance your curriculum

- Honors Options
- Honors Thesis
- Independent Research Projects
- Field Experience (internships)
- Education Abroad (most MSU programs abroad are open to all JMC majors)



Books We Read in SRP



Education Abroad

BRAZIL: POLITICS, CULTURE, AND SOCIETY
(summer program offering 2 SRP courses)_s



*Olivia Schaefer, Katie Yanoulakis, and
additional SRP, MC, and Brazilian students*



TANZANIA
Jane Ahlborn

SRP students on study abroad and internships abroad



VENEZUELA: PEACE
VILLAGES FOUNDATION
INTERNSHIP

Megan O'Brien



LONDON

Tiffany Harris
Tiffany also interned in
Argentina.



COSTA RICA

Lexus Bacon



SRP Award Winners

MSU'S MLK JR. ADVANCING INCLUSION THROUGH RESEARCH AWARDS 2025

2nd Place Emma Ayers

“Women’s Health and Social-Sexual Politics in the Afro-Surinamese
Diaspora: A Case Study on Dutch Tolerance”

2024

1st Place Taylor Toth (SRP & PTCD)

2nd Place Adrianna Roth (SRP)

3rd Place Stephanie Adams (SRP)

Honorable Mention: Jordan Roebuck (SRP)

JMC DEAN’S CHOICE AWARD FOR BEST PUBLIC POLICY PAPERS 2024



1st Place:
Lauren Dauber
(SRP & CCP)

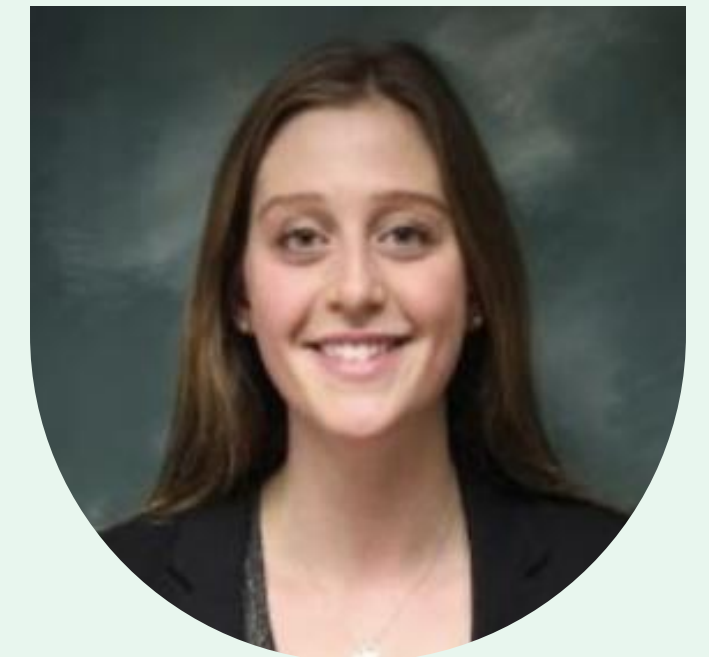


3rd Place:
Ashley Mathews
(SRP)

A Long History of SRP Award Winners

MSU nominees for national awards

- Abbie Barnum (SRP & CCP)
 - Marshall Scholarship 2022
 - Mitchell Scholarship 2022
 - Pickering Fellowship 2023 (Finalist)
- Carly Sandstrom (SRP & CCP)
 - Marshall Scholarship 2022
- Elyse Baden (SRP & PTCD)
 - Marshall Scholarship 2022
- Troy Distelrath (SRP & CCP)
 - Truman Scholarship 2020 (Finalist)





EWURAMA APPIAGYEI-DANKAH

- 2024 Class Commencement Speaker, University of Michigan Law School
- 2017 MSU Truman Scholarship Nominee

Where do SRP students attend graduate school?

GRADUATE PROGRAMS:

- Public Policy
- Law School
- Social Work/Counseling
- Public Health
- History
- Sociology/Clinical Psychology
- Education
- Communications
- Industrial and Labor Relations
- Geography
- Economics

GRADUATE INSTITUTIONS:

- University of Michigan
- Harvard University
- Columbia University
- Michigan State University
- Cornell University
- Syracuse University
- University of Wisconsin
- Cambridge University
- University of Chicago
- Duke University
- Northwestern University
- Johns Hopkins University

Job Titles of Recent SRP Alumni

- Administrative Assistant, City of Grand Rapids
- Adviser, MSU College Advising Corps
- Business Immigration Coordinator, Fragomen
- Civil Rights Claims Examiner, Michigan Department of Civil Rights
- Data Scientist, Grassroots Midwest
- Development Officer, Illinois Housing Development Corporation
- Press Secretary for Governor Whitmer
- Finance Associate, Gretchen Whitmer for Governor
- Organizer, Reproduction Freedom for All
- Economic Development Taskforce Specialist, Immigrant and Refugee Resource Collaborative
- Data Analyst, Michigan Virtual High School Social Studies Teacher, Waverly Community Schools

Featured Social Relations & Policy Alumni



Dylan Luna

- Business Manager, Flint and Genesee Economic Alliance
- Flint Board of Education
- Global Attraction Representative at the Michigan Economic Development Corporation
- MBA, University of Michigan - Flint
- MA, Urban Pedagogy, U. of Michigan - Ann Arbor
- 2014 SRP Graduate



Dr. Lauren Beach

- Director of the ADVOCATE SGM Health Program within Northwestern University's Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing
- Assistant Professor at Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University
- Ph.D. in Molecular, Cellular, Developmental Biology & Genetics, University of Minnesota
- J.D. with a Concentration in Health Law and Bioethics, University of Minnesota Law School
- 2007 SRP Graduate



Adonne Washington

- J.D. from Howard University Law School, 2020
- 2017 SRP Graduate
- Principal in her own firm: A.R. Washington PLLC
- Digital Justice Associate Counsel for the National Branch of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law



Dr. Sirrita Darby

- Ed.D Michigan State University College of Education, 2021
- 2014 SRP Graduate
- Executive Director at Detroit Heals Detroit
- Forbes 30 Under 30

For More Information About SRP

- Check out the James Madison College website
 - This power point will be posted on the SRP website
- Talk to students or faculty. (Some of us will hang around after.)
- *Your Questions??*
- Thanks for attending!