

Social Justice (SJ) Course Approval Application

Course proposals will be evaluated using the syllabus and the accompanying narrative.

Instructor \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Course number and title \_\_\_\_\_ Sem. hrs. \_\_\_\_\_

Department Chair signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Rationale:** Knowledge of social justice issues is necessary for effective leadership in service to humanity. In order to function well in this diverse world where examples of injustice are in the news each day, Springfield College students must understand the complexities of social justice and be prepared to take action for it in their personal and professional lives.

**Definition:** The General Education Requirement in Social Justice Issues is fulfilled by three credits of curricular study that examines domestic and/or international issues of injustice based on at least two of the following: ability, age, economic class, ethnicity, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, and/or inequality between or among nations.

**What to submit:**

1. New or revised **course proposal form**.
2. **Properly formatted course syllabus** (See *Faculty Handbook*) that includes the following:
  - Course outline that identifies Social Justice content.
  - Course learning outcomes that incorporate the substance of the Social Justice learning outcomes that appear below.
  - Social justice issues should be the primary focus of the course outcomes, content, activities, and assessments. The syllabus must demonstrate that the course deals with social justice in a substantive manner rather than marginally or tangentially.
3. A **brief narrative** specifically explaining how the course fulfills each of the Social Justice learning outcomes listed below.

**Social Justice Learning Outcomes:** In the narrative, please describe concrete examples for outcomes 2, 3, and 4. (e.g. the specific privileges discussed in your course, the specific institutional causes illustrated in your course, the specific strategies for action explored or assessed in your course).

Upon completion of the social justice course, students will be able to

1. Identify and describe incidents and patterns of domestic or international injustice in two or more of the following categories: ability, age, economic class, ethnicity, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or national status. (Initial Awareness)
2. Explain the complexities of privilege for those who benefit from injustice, as well as the consequences of injustice for those who lack power. (Deeper Understanding)
3. Explain causes of injustice on at least two of the following levels: (a) individual attitudes and behaviors, (b) cultural ideas, values, assumptions, and images, and (c) organizational / institutional practices and structures. (Deeper Understanding)
4. Describe and assess various strategies for action for increasing social justice. Examples might include actions designed to modify interpersonal behaviors, institutional or systemic barriers, and/or cultural ideas and images. (Action for change)