Inver Hills Community College

SJS 1100: Introduction to Social Justice

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3
Lecture Hours/Week: 3
Lab Hours/Week: 0
OJT Hours/Week: *.*
Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None
MnTC Goals: Goal 07 - Human Diversity, Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

Explores the concepts of justice, oppression, and social change and examines the ways in which political, economic, legal, education, and other institutions create challenges for justice. In this course, students will explore, critique, and apply the fundamental concepts of justice, oppression and social change. Through course activities, students will begin integrating ideas and perspectives, formulating personal ideologies, and developing an enhanced sense of civic responsibility. They will also examine the broad concept of social change through explorations of different social movements, profiles of human rights activists, and various policies. The course seeks to broaden student understanding of contemporary justice issues and to enhance their knowledge of how they can become positive social change agents.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 08/16/2021 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Perspectives of social justice.
   - Concepts and forms of oppression (e.g., Dominance, oppression, perpetrator and bystander, implicit bias, stereotyping, identity).
   - Systems of oppression, empowerment, power, control, and privilege.
   - The role of social institutions (impede or restrict, limit or enable justice).
   - Culture, socialization origins of bias, prejudice and stereotypes.

2. Intersectionality of oppression (e.g., class, social race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion, ability, age, nationality).
   - Social justice movements and activist profiles/narratives/biographies.
   - Contemporary forms of oppression such as police violence, environmental issue, imprisonment.
   - Legal implications of social policy and implementation.
   - Self-reflection.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Critically examine social injustices and inequities from a variety of historical, cultural, and geographic settings.
   - Summarize multidisciplinary perspectives, origins and theories of social justice and injustice.
   - Evaluate forms of privilege, oppression and power through the lens of intersectionality.

2. Examine social movements and community organizing from a variety of academic perspectives and lenses.
   - Evaluate students’ own personal perceptions about social justice and articulate how they formed.
   - Assess the strategies, tools and resources that people have applied to address social injustice and create a plan to take action.
E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 07 - Human Diversity

1. Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.
2. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.
3. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population diversity.

Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
3. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
4. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted