

Final Report: Core Course Development Grant
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Proposed Course Type: Integrations: Ethics and Justice with engaged learning flag
Proposed Course Title: International Affairs and Social Justice

This course is designed to expose students to ethical theories as well as careers in social justice, with particular attention to international issues. Students are required to serve in an organization that fits within the course parameters, which complements their classroom experience. Students will gain experience in the active promotion of a particular issue by being exposed both to the functioning of an organization and the way in which it pursues its mission. In conjunction with their intensive community service (6-10 hours per week), students will learn about morality and global justice, in the context of international health, war, poverty, and human rights, among others.

In addition to exposing students to a variety of career options, one of the primary learning outcomes is for students to understand and differentiate between theories of ethics and justice (including utilitarianism, deontology, just war), and be able to apply those to contemporary political issues. Moreover, students will be able to thoughtfully engage in debates regarding the application of ethics and theories of justice in the area of international affairs. Students will also value rational reflection as they consider how to live a life guided by ethical principles.

As I teach in the POLS department, which is currently engaged in a four-unit upper-division curriculum, the course already represents a four-unit course.

This course could be taught by others in my department, who specialize in the subfield of international relations, though it is not likely. Outside our department, the course may lend itself well to being taught by a philosophy professor.

The proposed course has no special requirements. It does ask students to serve in non-profit organizations 6-10 hours per week, as part of their coursework. In order to achieve placements for all students, the course demands that the professor begin working on this in the semester prior to teaching it.

I am working with other professors to propose another core course as well, POLS 165, Introduction to International Relations. This course falls under the Explorations category of Understanding Human Behavior. We will be submitting this to the review committee this fall, and we are ready to teach it Fall 2013. I will also be submitting a proposal for a flagged course, POLS 210 QE, Empirical Approaches to Politics. It will satisfy both the quantitative reasoning flag and the engaged learning flag.