SPA Minor
Race, Politics, and Justice

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Overview of Minor

- 21 credits hours (7 courses)
- 3 required courses (2 in Government and 1 in JLC)
- 4 additional electives (most in SPA but a few in CAS). Other related courses can count as electives with permission
Required Courses (3)

- GOVT 231: Politics in the Developing World
- GOVT 325: Minority Politics in the United States
- JLC 455: Race Issues in Justice
Electives (2 JLC courses, 1 GOVT course, and 1 additional elective)

- AMST 240 Poverty and Culture
- AFAM 350 Topics in African American and African Diaspora Studies
- GOVT 240 Metropolitan Politics
- GOVT 415 Southern Civil Rights Movement
- GOVT 425 Jazz and the Civil Rights Movement
- GOVT 440 Minority Representation and Ethnic Conflict
- GOVT 455 Equal Protection
- JLC 103 Critical Issues in Justice
- JLC 206 Justice and Deviant Behavior
- JLC 211 Contemporary Issues in American Law Enforcement
- JLC 225 American Legal Culture FA2
- JLC 309 Justice and Public Policy
- JLC 431 The Prison Community
- SOCY 455 Immigration, Race & Ethnicity
Strengths of Minor

- Interdisciplinary (courses from 2+ departments)
- Unique among minors within the United States
  - Existing minors/majors focus on race or politics, but not both
- Provides a strong foundation of how race/ethnicity influences governments systems/processes and criminal justice processes
- Policy-driven, meaning these are not theoretical discussions in the classroom
What the minor is NOT

- Ethnic studies minor
- History of race as a social construct
- The development of race and ethnicity over time

**Those topics are valuable but not the purpose of the minor**
Usefulness of Minor

Provides a strong foundation of criminal justice and government systems and processes

Provides a critical view of how race shaped those systems and continue to play a role

Focus is on the evidence and research rather than personal opinions without foundation

Allows for more critical assessment of systems in terms of strengths and areas of improvement

Becoming an increasing part of job market to be able to discuss these issues on interviews