



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