

North Eastern University Illinois (El Centro)  
Course Syllabus  
Fall 2009

**Course Information**

Justice Studies 101: Introduction to Social Studies  
Instructor: Xavier Perez  
Contact Information: [X-Perez@neiu.edu](mailto:X-Perez@neiu.edu)  
Office: Instructor's Lounge  
Office Hours: Thursdays 5:00 – 6:00 or by Appointment

**Course Description and Objectives**

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the issues and principles of social justice. Throughout the course, we will ask (1) what is social justice (2) and how can we employ it in society. The course will analyze key variables such as race, class, gender, age, national origin, physical challenges, and sexual relations. In addition,, the course will consider how social institutions and practices produce “inequality” in society. Finally, the course will consider the relations between nations by examining local and global dynamics of social justice.

**Evaluation and Grades**

The class grade will be determined by a variety of course assignments/projects. The goal of the course assignments/projects is to develop a conceptual and practical framework of social justice. Specifically, what is social justice and how can we engage in social justice policy/practices? The course assignments will consist of four components; a reflective paper, a project proposal, a project presentation, and a final project (see course schedule for particular due dates).

In addition, there will be daily in-class assignments held throughout the semester. The writing assignments will reflect your understanding of the material. There will be at least eight in-class assignments held throughout the semester. Your best (N-1) assignments will count for a total of 20% of your final grade. Missed in-class writing assignments will be graded zero, with no opportunity for makeup.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated and is subject to NEIU disciplinary policies.

15% = Reflective Paper  
15% = Project Proposal  
20% = Project Presentation  
30% = Final Project  
20% = Writing Assignments  
100% = Total

**Required Text & Readings**

Capeheart, Loretta & Milovanovic, Dragon. 2007. “Social Justice: Theories, Issues, and Movements”. Rutgers University Press.

Blumenfeld, Warren; Zuniga, Ximena; Peters, Madeline; Castaneda, Carmelita;  
Hackman, Heather; & Adams, Maurianne. 2010. “Readings for Diversity and Social Justice (2nd Edition)”. Routledge Taylor & Francis Group.

\*\*Additional Readings will be posted on Blackboard.

## Schedule

The syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to accommodate instructional and/or student needs. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Office of Student Support Services.

### Weeks 1--5: What is Justice?

Thursday (9/03)	Introduction Lecture: What is Justice?
Thursday (9/10)	Lecture: What is Social Justice? Social Justice: Theories, Issues, and Movements: Chapters 1 & 2
Thursday (9/17)	Social Justice: Theories, Issues, and Movements: Chapter 3 Readings for Diversity: Chapters 2, 3, 4, & 6
Thursday (9/24)	Social Justice: Theories, Issues, and Movements: Chapters 4 & 5
	Reflective Paper Due (3 pages)

### Weeks 6 -- 7: Social Justice Issues

Thursday (10/01)	Social Justice: Theories, Issues, and Movements: Chapter 6 Readings for Diversity: Chapters 7, 8, 9, & 11
Thursday (10/08)	Social Justice: Theories, Issues, and Movements: Chapter 7 Readings for Diversity: Chapters 73, 74, 75, & 78
Thursday (10/15)	Lecture: The Environment Social Justice: Theories, Issues, and Movements: Chapter 8
Thursday (10/22)	Readings for Diversity: Chapters 32, 33, 36, & 39 Readings for Diversity: Chapters 46, 49, 51, & 52
Thursday (10/29)	**“Donde Esta La Justicia” by Walker, Rivera-Vaquez, and Perry **Drugs and Disparity: The Racial Impact of Illinois’ Practice of Transferring Young Offenders to Adult Court
	Project Proposal Due (3 pages)

### Weeks 13 -- 15: Struggling for Social Justice

Thursday (11/05)	Lecture: Individual and Organizational Strategies for Achieving Justice Social Justice: Theories, Issues, and Movements: Chapter 10
Thursday (11/12)	Social Justice: Theories, Issues, and Movements: Chapter 11 Readings for Diversity: Chapters 17, 18, 83, 84, 43, & 54
Thursday (11/19)	Readings for Diversity: Chapters 86, 87, & 89 No Class -- Blackboard Assignments (American Society of Criminology)
Thursday (11/26)	No School – Thanksgiving
Thursday (12/03)	Lecture: Global Justice Social Justice: Theories, Issues, and Movements: Chapters 12
Thursday (12/10)	Project Presentations

### Week 17: Final Exam

Thursday (12/17)	Project Presentations Final Project Due (10 Pages)
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