# **Justice Studies Fall 2024 Registration Memo**

## **Advising Resources:**

* Read this memo carefully and thoroughly. If you have questions or need guidance after reviewing this memo, as well as the Academic Requirements page on MyMadison and the JMU catalog, please contact your assigned Justice Studies academic advisor.
* You may also contact the Justice Studies Advising Coordinator, [Daisy Breneman](mailto:brenemdl@jmu.edu).
* The [Madison Advising Peers](https://www.jmu.edu/advising/acadplan/peers.shtml) (MAPs) are a great resource, especially with Gen Ed, degree, or university elective requirements, or other general advising questions.

## Overrides:

* The department works off the waitlist; we do not give overrides.
* If a course is full, you can put your name on the waitlist; the waitlist is first-come, first-served, and does not mean, or guarantee, you’ll be enrolled in the course; you should enroll in another course so that you have alternatives.
* JUST 399 or 400 are the exceptions; make these courses the FIRST courses you enroll in. If you are a senior and cannot enroll in the course, contact the department at [justicestudies@jmu.edu](mailto:justicestudies@jmu.edu) as soon as possible (before your enrollment appointment); we cannot guarantee placement in specific sections.
* CHECK MyMadison before your enrollment appointment to make sure you don’t have any holds on your record that might prevent you from registering; it’s very important that you enroll during your enrollment appointment (also listed on MyMadison); we cannot offer overrides to students who missed their enrollment appointment.

## **Progression in the major:**

* It takes **at least 5 semesters** to complete the major, due to the prerequisite structure:
  + **JUST 200 is a prerequisite** for all other JUST major courses; students must successfully complete JUST 200 in order to take any other JUST course, no exceptions.
  + JUST 200 and at least one foundation course (JUST 210, JUST 212, JUST 235, JUST 237, JUST 221, or JUST 223) are prerequisites for all 300-level courses.
  + Students must take at least one 300-level course before taking JUST 399; MATH 220 is another prerequisite for JUST 399.
  + Successful completion of JUST 399 is a prerequisite for JUST 400.
* Check your **Academic Requirements** page on MyMadison to determine which requirements you’ve met and which you still need to meet, as well as which courses will count as your concentration electives.
* At least 4 of the 6 required upper-level major electives must be JUST-designated. You should also refer to the Undergraduate Catalog and Academic Requirements on MyMadison for more information about major requirements.

## **Important notes on your Catalog Requirement Year:**

* All Justice Studies majors follow **the catalog year when they declared the Justice Studies major**; the year and those requirements will be reflected on the Academic Requirements page in MyMadison. **It’s important to access the catalog from your correct catalog year!**
* Students planning to declare a concentration should do in MyMadison as soon as possible so that Academic Requirements in MyMadison will accurately reflect required courses.
* For students who are **General Justice Studies** majors, taking one foundation course per concentration (JUST 210 or 212; JUST 221 or 223; JUST 235 or 237) for a total of three courses, or 9 credits, is one of the core requirements.

## **JUST 301 Electives:**

Each section of JUST 301: Advanced Special Topics deals with a different topic**. Students cannot repeat the same/similar topic for credit**, including if the course number has changed; otherwise, there’s no limit on the number of JUST 301s students can take. Here are the 301s being offered for Fall:

* **Section 01, Truth Telling and Justice (Concentrations A, B, C, and General Major)**

This course examines the interconnections between truth telling and justice. Students will explore a wide range of historical and current issues related to truth, truth telling, and justice. The course also emphasizes the essential role of individual and collective truth tellers in the pursuit of justice.

* **Section 02, Rest, Advocacy and Justice (Concentration C, and General Major)**

This course provides a context for students to examine the philosophy and research related to the role of “rest” in social life as a form of resistance to systems of oppression. This multidisciplinary course is informed by Black feminist writing and social justice critiques of capitalist economic systems and white supremacy, grind culture, and attention economies. We will discuss issues including the nature of work, the politics of leisure and “laziness,” and the ways in which we might simultaneously view “rest” as revolutionary, as shameful, as wasteful or as one of the most pure acts of personal and political resistance. Students can expect a learning community in which we commit to reading deeply and sharing our perspectives on course materials with one another. Strategies for rest (and unplugging) are examined, practiced, and advocated as fundamental to social justice work.

* **Section 03, Domestic Violence (Concentrations A, C, and the General Major)**

This class provides an overview of research and scholarship related to domestic violence, with a focus on IPV (Intimate Partner Violence)

* **Section 04, Juvenile Justice & Constructions of Delinquency (Concentrations A, C and General Major)**

This course is an interdisciplinary exploration of juvenile justice and constructions of delinquency. It examines historical, social, discursive, and institutional constructions of delinquency, emphasizing the educational experiences of young people experiencing forms of state custody and surveillance at the intersections of multiple identity markers. It also inquires into efforts to resist injustices and connects with broader conversations about justice.

## New Courses

**JUST 308: Social Psychology and Justice**: counts for Concentrations A, C, and General Major. IMPORTANT NOTE: This course was taught previously as JUST 301: Special Topics: Individual, Society, and Justice; the course cannot be repeated for credit.

This course examines various pressing social problems including, but not limited to, lethal policing, hate crimes, racial profiling and prejudice to illustrate how social psychology affects our understanding of justice. Students will examine how others - ranging from small friendship groups to entire societies - affect an individual and how the individual affects others by learning about various social psychological concepts, such as attributions of blame, stereotypes, attitudes, conformity and altruism. Throughout the course, students will identify the implications individual perceptions and interactions with others have for justice, crime, criminal justice and social justice. Prerequisite(s): JUST 200 and one other 200-level JUST course, excluding JUST 225.

## **JUST 387: Gender Identity, Law and Justice**; counts for the “Fairness and Responsibility” core requirement OR an upper-level elective (Concentrations A, B, C, and General Major)

## This course explores issues of justice in shaping law and policy related to gender identity. The concept of gender identity is a relatively recent development in academic, legal, medical, and other policy contexts in the United States and globally. Topics addressed in the course include the dehumanization, criminalization, medicalization, and oppression of transgender, non-binary, and gender-expansive populations and legal and regulatory interventions and movements for gender self-determination, social justice, criminal justice reform, and human rights. Prerequisite for JUST majors: JUST 200 and one other 200-level JUST course, not including JUST 225

## **JUST 400: Senior Seminar**

Graduating seniors should make JUST 400 the first course they select in constructing a schedule.

**JUST 400, Section 1:**

This section is **open topic**. Students are expected to enter JUST 400 with a proposed area of study, and will spend the semester developing a thesis. Class discussion and review of individual projects, along with oral presentation of work, are integral parts of the course. Students are expected to produce a piece of original scholarship related to their study in the major.

This means **you should enter this course with a strong idea for what kind of a term paper / senior thesis you plan to research and write**. Be sure that you do so. In this section we will study academic writing practices and work on your term papers. The topics are your choice, though they must be grounded in the study of justice. **There are other sections of JUST 400** wherein professors guide the students in choosing research topics that align with a particular theme. If you are more comfortable with the latter approach, please enroll in one of those sections.

**JUST 400, Section 2:**

This section of JUST 400: Senior Seminar focuses on prosecutorial misconduct. Taught in a hybrid format, this course teaches students about the important role prosecutors play in the criminal justice system with a particular emphasis on the abuses in which prosecutors could engage due to their position in an adversarial system of justice. Focusing on the American context, this course provides a critical examination of the causes, types, and consequences of prosecutorial misconduct. Throughout the course, students will acquire advanced research skills by finding and retrieving information related to known cases of prosecutorial misconduct. The final project, which is developed throughout the semester, consists of a comprehensive literature review (20-25 pages) that includes a discussion of policy suggestions on a particular topic chosen by students relating to the study of prosecutorial misconduct and reflecting a Concentration A, B, or C, or General Major, focus.

## ****JUST 401: Internships****

* Internships are recommended, but not required, and are by application only.
* Most students complete internships over the summer, as the requirements can be hard to meet during the regular semester.
* 180 hours are required (for the 3-credit section), in addition to academic work related to the experience.
* Students must apply and be accepted, and then, with permission, enroll in the internship course, JUST 401, for academic credit; requirements include junior or senior status, successful completion of JUST 399, and good academic standing.
* Learn more on the [internship page](https://www.jmu.edu/justicestudies/internship.shtml) on the Justice Studies website.
* Internship inquiries can be directed [to the department](mailto:justicestudies@jmu.edu), Dr. Peggy Plass, or Daisy Breneman.

## **JUST 499: Honors**

* All Honors students who are doing an honors thesis in the department must enroll in JUST 499 A, B or C (depending on the stage of the project).
* Interested students should contact Dr. Peggy Plass for enrollment information and permission.
* Students must meet the requirements [outlined on the website](https://www.jmu.edu/justicestudies/honors.shtml).