

Justice & Peace Studies Minor

Georgetown College offers an A.B. degree in Justice and Peace Studies, as well as a Minor in Justice and Peace Studies (open to students in COL, SFS, MSB, and NHS).

The emerging interdisciplinary field of peace studies—known variously as “peace and conflict studies,” “conflict analysis and resolution,” or “peace and justice studies”—is concerned with practical, normative questions of how to realize peace and justice in the everyday world. The ultimate goal of peace studies is to produce practically useful scholarship on how to create a more just and peaceful world. Such scholarship requires empirical accounts of the causes of war and violence, practical understandings of how to prevent and ameliorate harmful social conditions, and theoretical reflections on the definition of justice. Each of these investigations can take place at all levels of social organization, from the individual to the family, from the small group to the nation, or at the level of the international community.

Our subject matter asks many basic yet complex questions. What is peace? What is conflict? How can one be encouraged and sustained, and the other mitigated or avoided? Students are exposed to a rich and contentious literature on the nature of peace and justice, which informs discussions in many other traditions as well. Questions of central interest to the field concern the material and psychological determinants of aggression, the role of families and other institutions in producing aggressive or peaceful societies, the origins of social inequality, techniques and implications of representing others, and the role of such factors in the building of communities. We also explore issues including the role of religious identity in informing the social conscience, when wars are just or unjust and what causes them, the efficacy of international norms of conduct, relationships between conflict and social structures, how nonviolence is practiced in social movements, and the effectiveness of various techniques of resolving conflict in different settings.

Such questions draw upon a wide range of existing disciplines, including psychology, philosophy, theology and religious studies, history, political science, sociology, anthropology, Literature, and linguistics. Equally essential is that the field requires active collaboration and dialogue between all of these elements. The goal is not just to combine existing scholarship but to form a useful synthesis of such material to improve the world around us.

Requirements

Requirements for the Minor

Six courses are required to complete the Minor in Justice and Peace Studies (JUPS).

The Minor is open to all students at Georgetown University. Interested students are required to fill out a short interest form on the JUPS website and complete or be enrolled in JUPS 1010 Intro to Justice & Peace (offered every semester and online in the summer).

Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
JUPS 1010	Intro to Justice & Peace	3
JUPS 2010	Nonviolence Theory & Practice	3
JUPS 2030	Peacebuilding and Confl Transf	3
Three JUPS elective courses ¹		9
Total Credits		18

¹ One elective has to be from the JUPS course offerings with two from JUPS course offerings or designated X-listed courses with the JUPS attribute.

A maximum of one course taken elsewhere (i.e., study abroad or transfer courses) may be counted as an elective in the minor, with approval of the Program Director.