

Social Responsibility (Interdisciplinary Minor)

Program Director: Dr. Sara King

The Social Responsibility Minor is an interdisciplinary course of study aimed at helping students consider, from both theoretical and experiential perspectives, the nature and responsibilities of democratic citizenship in our time. The Social Responsibility Minor is inspired by the Goals of Franciscan Higher Education and the Goals of the General Education Program, which call for reverence for all life, a global vision, respect and tolerance for all persons, an appreciation for diversity, stewardship of the world's resources, and service to the poor and needy.

In the course of studies students will engage questions such as the following: What does citizenship mean now? What ought it mean? How does it relate to various perspectives on justice? community? diversity? What are the ideals to which democratic citizens are called? What are essential values for responsible citizenship? In what ways can people make a positive difference in their world? What are the skills needed to be a socially responsible citizen? In what ways might conscientious objection or civil disobedience be expressions of social responsibility?

The Minor may have either a national (United States) or international focus. Consistent with the goals of General Education at Saint Francis, not only familiarity with key knowledge bases, but also the development of relevant skills, and the examination of values-related questions are integral to this course of study.

Skills Components in the Social Responsibility Minor:

Communications (verbal, written, technology-related, media), organizational and leadership skills, political skills, intellectual skills (critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, socio-critical analysis).

Key knowledge bases:

Investigations of modern social, environmental, and technological problems, historical precedents, and key social and political institutions which contribute to the development of problems and possible resolutions.

Examination of values-related questions of social responsibility:

Opportunities to evaluate critically-dominant cultural values, as well as awareness of alternative value systems; the study of values in the context of social and political questions; and the study of means by which social and political groups achieve compromise and resolution in the context of varying systems of belief.

INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR IN SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

SRES 301; RLST/PHIL 308; a pre-approved Core 403; four additional courses, including a minimum of one from *each* of the following categories and a *second* Knowledge Base course which is *outside of your major*. No more than one of the Knowledge Base courses can be part of the student's major. No more than three of the required six courses may be part of the student's General Education Core requirements. Students who select this minor are encouraged to seek involvement in campus and community activities which will also enhance their education for citizenship.

Skills:

Business Law 301; Communications 101, 210, 450; Computer Science 110, 341; English 310; French 202; Management 326; Political Science 312; Psychology 201, 202, 304, 323; Sociology 302; Spanish 202; Statistics 101; Social Responsibility 398-399.

Knowledge Bases:

Biology 103, 203, 218; Chemistry 105, 205; English 201, 202; History 336, 339, 340, 385, 400.1; Political Science 102, 212, 301, 305; Psychology 322; Social Work 202, 310; Sociology 102, 402, Spanish 212/312.

Values:

Philosophy 307, 309, 312, 313, 317, 402; Political Science 313, Psychology/ Philosophy 405; Religious Studies 311, 400; Social Work 203.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY — COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

102. Freshman Colloquium. (2 credits)

This course is a Core 102 freshman colloquium which is primarily (90%) focused on issues related to social critical theory or social responsibility. Open to First Year students only. Core 102 SRES will count as an elective within the minor. *As needed.*

301. Social Critical Theory (3 credits)

This course teaches students to challenge the status quo, question the values of the dominant culture, and change the ordinary way of thinking about social responsibility. Social critical theory asks questions that deal simultaneously with political, cultural, and moral dimensions of life in order to empower students to contribute to liberation and justice by getting people to come out of their "culture of silence." Some of the social critical theorists studied will represent feminist, Marxist, or religious perspectives that are often silenced or at least marginalized by society.

398-399. Civic Engagement Internship (1-3 credits)

Participation in, or organization of, community groups explicitly involved in facilitating community (vs. individual) change

495. Social Responsibility Special Topics (2-3 credits)

This course will address current or enduring issues related to Social Responsibility and social critical theory. SRES 495 will count as an elective within the minor. *As needed.*

CORE 403: Senior Capstone in the Social Responsibility Minor

The Senior Capstone in General Education will serve in fulfillment of the requirement. However, completion of a minor in Social Responsibility requires the student to complete a General Education Senior Capstone which helps to integrate the Social Responsibility curricular and co-curricular experiences. Prior approval of the Capstone is necessary.