

PSCI/SOCI 492: Independent Study
International Crime, Justice, & Politics
Spring 2025

Instructor:

Dr. Hope Dewell-Gentry (PSCI 492)

Dr. Jennifer Scroggins (SOCI 492)

Course Description:

This is an independent study course focused on international crime, justice, & politics. As this is a broad topic, you will work with your course instructor to select a relevant topic to emphasize. For example, you might elect to emphasize social factors associated with genocide or comparative approaches to justice. In addition to selecting a relevant topic to emphasize, you will participate in a 2-week faculty-led study abroad program focused on the larger topic of international crime, justice, and politics.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this independent study, you will be able to:

- 1) Define international crime, to include the scope of behaviors it includes
- 2) Develop understanding of tactics used to dehumanize or marginalize groups targeted for genocide and other forms of international crime
- 3) Identify treaties and agreements that govern international criminal law
- 4) Describe efforts to prosecute those accused of international crimes, both historically and today
- 5) Discuss implications of these topics for ongoing efforts to ensure justice and human rights protections for all

Course Materials

Once you select a relevant topic to emphasize during the independent study, the course instructor will work with you to identify appropriate readings; this may require purchase of a textbook.

In addition to required readings, this course requires satisfactory completion of a 2-week faculty-led study abroad program. Fees for the study abroad program are estimated at \$1,731.56, which includes three group meals. In addition to these fees, you will be responsible for airfare from Billings to Berlin on May 1, 2025, from Amsterdam to Billings on May 14, 2025, and for the cost of most daily during the trip (only the cost of the three group meals is included in the quoted fees). Local dining options, grocery stores, and kitchen facilities are available.

Evaluation:

Your grade in this course will be calculated as follows:

- (1) Satisfactory completion of 2-week faculty-led study abroad program (30%)
- (2) Weekly reading memos (35%)
- (3) Final paper (35%)

NOTE: This is a mock syllabus for students who register to complete the faculty-led study abroad program as an independent study. The faculty-led trip will also be included as an option (in lieu of some other course requirements) in the following courses:

CJUS 421: Criminal Justice Ethics (Scroggins)

PSCI 424: Democratization (Dewell-Gentry)

PSCI 426: Comparative Political Economy (Hill)

PSCI 446: Language & Law (Pope)

SOCI 380: Sociology of Health & Medicine (Honea)

Each of the above-listed courses will maintain its own syllabus, with clearly identified course/assignment requirements for students who complete the study-abroad option. The study-abroad option will not be treated as a course requirement, so students who choose not to travel abroad will be able to successfully complete those courses.