

## Honors Opportunities in Justice Studies and Guidelines for Thesis Completion

The faculty and staff of Justice and Social Inquiry are pleased to offer our undergraduate students a variety of opportunities that may be especially appealing to our Honors students. These activities include internships locally, nationally, and abroad; research apprenticeships with faculty; honors credit in courses and the possibility to complete honors contracts; scholarships; and undergraduate certificate programs in Human Rights, Socio-legal Studies and Economic Justice.

### ***Guide to Justice Studies Honors Theses Completion***

Completion of an undergraduate honors thesis requires commitment and planning. Students should use the planning and preparation guides provided by Barrett, The Honors College on their website: <https://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics>

Please consult the following sites for Justice Studies course requirements:

- B.A.: [https://sst.clas.asu.edu/sites/default/files/jus\\_ba\\_2015-16.pdf](https://sst.clas.asu.edu/sites/default/files/jus_ba_2015-16.pdf)
- B.S.: [https://sst.clas.asu.edu/sites/default/files/jus\\_bs\\_2015-16.pdf](https://sst.clas.asu.edu/sites/default/files/jus_bs_2015-16.pdf)

**Freshman Year:** Contact the Justice Studies Faculty Honors Advisor (FHA) if you need assistance in finding faculty who share your research interests. Justice and Social Inquiry offers five specialty areas of study and three undergraduate certificates. We encourage students to review faculty specialty areas from our website to select a faculty mentor. You may also wish to read faculty publications. Faculty profiles may be found at <https://sst.clas.asu.edu/jsi-faculty>.

#### Specialty Areas:

- Citizen, migration and human rights;
- Globalization, sustainability and economic justice;
- Law, policy and social change;
- Media, technology and culture; and
- Social Identities and communities

**Sophomore Year:** Review past undergraduate theses for insights into the types of research topics and data collection strategies typical for Justice Studies students. Completed theses are available at the Honors College for your review. Because thesis quality varies considerably, consult with the FHA and/or your thesis advisor about the appropriateness of any given thesis as a model for your project. Schedule a meeting with appropriate faculty members to discuss your thesis ideas. The FHA can assist you in this process by making the necessary introductions.

#### **Junior Year—1<sup>st</sup> Semester:**

(1) Prior to enrolling in 492 or 493, all students must complete a thesis/creative project information session. You may complete this requirement by attending an in-person workshop (offered on all campuses), or by completing the online thesis/creative project workshop offered via Blackboard.

More information can be found here: <https://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/thesis-and-creative-project/getting-started>.

(2) Select a faculty mentor for Directed Study (JUS 492) and set up a meeting schedule/timeline for completion of your project. We recommend that students allow at least one semester for research and one semester for writing the thesis, as it typically requires several drafts.

(3) Complete the paperwork to register for JUS 492-Directed Study with an academic advisor and your thesis director before the start of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of your Junior year.

(4) Choose a second reader. Your thesis director or FHA can help you to identify this individual (usually an ASU faculty or staff member with expertise in your area).

(5) Write a prospectus outlining your planned research and submit a copy to the Honors College. This prospectus represents a contract between you and your committee. It can be, and often is, modified as work progresses. The deadline is generally mid-September of your senior year, but consult the Barrett website to be sure: <https://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/thesis-and-creative-project/forms-important-dates/>. You may be eligible for additional funding if you turn your prospectus in early and have financial need.

**IMPORTANT:**

- The Prospectus should outline the type of research that you plan to conduct. Note: You must go beyond writing a term paper.
- If gathering data on human subjects, be sure to submit an Institutional Review Board proposal (found at <http://researchintegrity.asu.edu/humans>) to the Office of Research Integrity and Assurance. The student's thesis director must review and approve the proposal prior to submission to the IRB.
- It is important that students review the IRB meeting schedule and timelines. Research is not allowed prior to IRB approval.

**Junior Year – 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester:**

- Begin your research project in JUS 492 Directed Study
- While conducting your research, be sure to meet with your thesis director on an ongoing basis. It is the student's responsibility to conduct the research in a timely manner. It is the director's responsibility to guide you through this process. Take advantage of his/her expertise.
- Complete paperwork for JUS 493 Thesis with an academic advisor and your thesis director before you enter your Senior year.

**Senior Year – 1<sup>st</sup> Semester:**

- Write up your research findings. Typically, the thesis will include a literature review, research questions/hypothesis, theoretical framework, data and methods, findings, discussion, and conclusions.
  - **Note:** Reviewing previously-prepared Justice Studies theses can help you understand the depth and breadth of work that must be included in your final document.

- Submit a first draft to your thesis director for feedback. Be prepared for multiple revisions. Give yourself plenty of time to incorporate revisions. Theses must be completed before graduation.
- Decide, *in consultation* with your thesis director, a date for your defense.

#### **Senior Year – 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester:**

- Be ready for your presentation: a Justice Studies thesis defense usually consists of the student presenting a 20-30 minute overview of the research (PowerPoint slides are encouraged) followed by a 45-60 minutes discussion, during which the student answers questions about the work. Remember that this is your opportunity to shine and to share your results with your committee....so prepare well.
- Obtain signatures from all committee members on the Honors signature sheet (you must bring this signature page to the thesis defense).
- The signature sheet is held by your thesis director if revisions are required. Once any revisions have been completed, your thesis and the signature sheet are handed into the Honors Office.

### ***Barrett, The Honors College: Links of Interest***

Information on honors enrichment contracts: <https://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/honors-courses-and-contracts/honors-enrichment-contracts>

Information about thesis/creative projects (*includes information about thesis prep workshops and classes*): <https://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/thesis-and-creative-project>

Information about Barrett internship opportunities: <https://barretthonors.asu.edu/student-life/development/internships>

### ***Justice Studies Contacts***

#### **Academic Advisors**

For general questions about attending ASU, Justice Studies' course requirements, student success, etc., please make an appointment with an academic advisor by calling 480-965-7682. Updated information on advisors can be found at: <https://sst.clas.asu.edu/content/advising>

#### **Justice Studies Internships and Research Apprenticeships Coordinator**

Erika Martinez, Academic Success Specialist

Email: [Erika.Martinez.3@asu.edu](mailto:Erika.Martinez.3@asu.edu)

Phone: 480-965-7682

Undergraduate research opportunities in JSI/SST: <https://sst.clas.asu.edu/content/undergraduate-research-opportunities>

#### **Justice Studies Faculty Honors Advisor**

For substantive questions relating to your thesis or honors program of study

Dr. Pat Lauderdale, Professor

Email: [PAT.LAUDERDALE@asu.edu](mailto:PAT.LAUDERDALE@asu.edu)

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