

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL POLICY AND PRACTICE (SSPP)

SSPP 6000 Advocacy in Emergent Technology, Digital Media and Society

This course is designed to build a critical foundation for understanding the interplay of digital technologies and society and the important role of advocates in this space. Providing an overview of the history, students will investigate and critique contemporary emergent technologies in a social context, and explore their use in advocacy efforts. The course uses interactive lecture, discussion, readings, and guest speakers from technologists in the field.

Fall

Also Offered As: COMM 6000

1 Course Unit

SSPP 6010 Comparative Urban and Distributive Politics

As of 2007, more than half of the world's population resides in cities. Cities and metropolitan regions are much more unequal than the countries that host them. For example, income inequality in the New York Metropolitan Area parallels that of Rwanda at around 15 Gini points higher than the U.S. as a whole. Especially in the world's developing regions, the onset of rapid urbanization occurs in tandem with environmental degradation that disproportionately affects impoverished and marginalized communities. This course provides an introduction to the observable patterns and challenges confronting cities and metropolitan areas and the policy remedies and options available to government, NGOs, and the private sector. First, the course will explore the political, social, and economic explanations for the origins and evolution of urban environments. We will trace the historical development of local government institutions, analyze how urban coalitions form, and investigate distributions of power. In the second half of the course, we will examine urban welfare policies in the areas of growth, housing, the distribution of public goods/services (e.g., education, public security, sanitation), identity politics and culture wars, and poverty. Focusing especially on cities in the Global South, the topics covered in this course include: poverty and urban slums, informal housing, informal labor markets, public goods and distributive justice, urban land rights and other "rights to the city" (RTC), climate change adaptation in cities, environmental risk and urban precarious settlements, gentrification and evictions, among other topics.

Fall

1 Course Unit

SSPP 6020 Applied Data Ethics, Law, and the Social Good

This course explores the applied use of civic data, specifically "using data for the social good." Data can help us understand needs, improve services, shift policies, and build stronger, healthier, and more just communities. However, use of data can also reinforce legacies of racist policies and produce inequitable resource allocation, access, and outcomes. These tensions are the crux of this course. We will interrogate assumptions and ask difficult questions of ourselves as we hold this duality—that data can be used for good and for harm. It is up to us as practitioners to weigh the risks and benefits to ensure that civic data use is legal, ethical, and a good idea.

Fall

1 Course Unit

SSPP 6030 Journey to Joy: Designing a Happier Life for Social Work, Social Policy and Non-Profit Leadership Pr

What does joy really mean? Could joy be an intervention for complex trauma, pain, grief, and loss? How does joy show up in policy making and leadership? This innovative new course combines cutting-edge research, practical techniques, and real-world examples to help you understand the power of joy and develop community-informed, anti-racist strategies for promoting it. From exploring the latest in clinical intervention, popular ideas around manifestation, self-care, and #Blackjoy, to examining the role of technology and cultural differences, you will gain a culturally humble and comprehensive understanding of what it takes to design a happier life. This course includes a blend of immersive, hands-on activities, short lectures, and engaging reflexive discussions that will leave you feeling inspired and empowered. Whether you are social work, non-profit leader or social policy student, or someone who wants to increase their own experiences of joy and happiness, this course is a perfect way to jump start your journey to joy.

Fall

Also Offered As: COMM 6030

1 Course Unit

SSPP 6040 Social Justice Scholars Program Seminar

The intent of the seminar is to aid scholars in developing skills, knowledge, and concepts relevant to becoming social justice leaders in their field. To this end, the seminar will: •Connect Scholars to relevant faculty, alumni and community and institutional leaders •Promote intellectual engagement among all scholars and faculty from across the school, as well as community-based representatives •Promote the development of critical consciousness and awareness of the issues of social justice in the scholar's chosen fields •Develop possible action strategies using a critical framework

Fall, Spring, and Summer Terms

Prerequisite: Course is restricted to SP2 SJS Program participants

0 Course Units

SSPP 7000 Independent Research Workshop

Students in this course will carry out their own social science research project relating to social work, social policy, nonprofit leadership, or other social justice topics. Students must complete an introductory research course prior to enrolling—SWRK6150, MSSP6290, NPL5830, NPL7200 or the equivalent. Students must also have an approved research proposal and IRB approval prior to the start of the course. All students will be expected to prepare a publishable research paper by the end of the semester.

Fall

1 Course Unit