

# POVERTY, JUSTICE AND HUMAN CAPABILITIES

## Contact Information

### Poverty, Justice and Human Capabilities

<https://pjhc.rice.edu/>

322 Rayzor Hall

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### Diana Strassmann

Program Director

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The Program in Poverty, Justice and Human Capabilities (PJHC) provides students with a multifaceted understanding of human well-being. A key goal of the minor is to enrich students' understanding of poverty and inequality so that, regardless of their choice of occupation, PJHC alumni will maintain a longstanding commitment to enhancing the well-being of all people. More generally, the program trains Rice students to be future leaders in solving local and global problems.

This interdisciplinary minor emphasizes a "capabilities approach," which considers what people are able to do and to be – for example, live to old age and engage in social, economic, and political activities – rather than strictly what material goods they possess. The program also acknowledges the central importance of a variety of additional influences on well-being beyond income, such as: racial and ethnic disparities, gender, health status, education, human rights, political freedoms, and material necessities, including food and shelter.

Although impediments to human well-being take many forms, barriers to the capabilities of women and girls persist across societies; women and girls are therefore disproportionately represented among the poor and those unable to attain their full capabilities. The academic component of the program, including the content of core and required coursework, acknowledges gender inequality, systemic racism, and the legacy of colonialism and postcolonial disparities, as powerful influences on disparities in human well-being both in the US and around the world.

The PJHC minor combines high-caliber undergraduate courses with service learning experiences that help disadvantaged communities and people. Students are placed with organizations where they work directly with clients and gain experiential knowledge that broadens their perspectives on human lives and capabilities. Through these academic and experiential learning opportunities, students explore deeper understandings of the structural factors underlying poverty and human well-being, as well as potential policy solutions. The program further aims to promote dialogue among all disciplines about how to address issues of poverty alleviation and human well-being with a sophisticated understanding of the challenges and sound strategies for moving forward.

## Minor

- [Minor in Poverty, Justice and Human Capabilities \(https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/humanities/poverty-justice-human-capabilities/poverty-justice-human-capabilities-minor/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/humanities/poverty-justice-human-capabilities/poverty-justice-human-capabilities-minor/)

Poverty, Justice and Human Capabilities does not currently offer an academic program at the graduate level.

## Director

Diana Strassmann

## Advisors

Diana Strassmann

Kerry R. Ward

## Steering Committee

Elias K. Bongmba

Elaine Howard Ecklund

Vivian Ho

Moramay López-Alonso

Anthony B. Pinn

Elora Shehabuddin

Diana Strassmann

Kerry R. Ward

*For Rice University degree-granting programs:*

To view the list of official course offerings, please see [Rice's Course Catalog \(https://courses.rice.edu/admweb!/SWKSCAT.cat?p\\_action=cata\)](https://courses.rice.edu/admweb!/SWKSCAT.cat?p_action=cata)

To view the most recent semester's course schedule, please see [Rice's Course Schedule \(https://courses.rice.edu/admweb!/SWKSCAT.cat\)](https://courses.rice.edu/admweb!/SWKSCAT.cat)

## Poverty, Justice and Human Capabilities (PJHC)

### PJHC 238 - SPECIAL TOPICS

**Short Title:** SPECIAL TOPICS

**Department:** Poverty Justice & Human Capab

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**Course Type:** Seminar, Independent Study, Internship/Practicum, Laboratory, Lecture, Lecture/Laboratory

**Credit Hours:** 1-4

**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.

**Course Level:** Undergraduate Lower-Level

**Description:** Topics and credit hours may vary each semester. Contact department for current semester's topic(s). Repeatable for Credit.

### PJHC 298 - PRE-SEMINAR SUMMER INTERNSHIP

**Short Title:** PRE-SEM SUMMER INTERNSHIP

**Department:** Poverty Justice & Human Capab

**Grade Mode:** Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory

**Course Type:** Seminar

**Credit Hour:** 1

**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.

**Course Level:** Undergraduate Lower-Level

**Prerequisite(s):** PJHC 371 and PJHC 394

**Description:** This course is designed to coach PJHC summer service interns on how to identify and utilize various media to best convey their internship experience. In addition to applying the critical lenses and the capabilities framework acquired in prerequisite PJHC courses, interns will also gain media proficiency in preparation for the fall course, PJHC 300: Digital Stories. Students must be a declared PJHC minor and must have completed PJHC 371 and PJHC 394. Department Permission Required.

**PJHC 299 - SUMMER INTERNSHIP****Short Title:** SUMMER INTERNSHIP**Department:** Poverty Justice & Human Capab**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter**Course Type:** Internship/Practicum**Credit Hour:** 1**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.**Course Level:** Undergraduate Lower-Level**Prerequisite(s):** PJHC 298 and PJHC 371 and PJHC 394**Description:** This course is designed to support student interns in the PJHC summer service learning experience. In addition to applying the critical lenses and the capabilities framework acquired in prerequisite PJHC courses, PJHC summer interns will learn how to work with and assist various populations and institutions. Students must be a declared PJHC minor and must have completed PJHC 298, PJHC 371 and PJHC 394. Department Permission Required. Repeatable for Credit.**PJHC 300 - PJHC SUMMER SERVICE INTERNSHIP REFLECTION****Short Title:** PJHC SERVICE REFLECTION**Department:** Poverty Justice & Human Capab**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter**Course Type:** Seminar**Credit Hour:** 1**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level**Description:** Returning PJHC McAshan Summer Service Interns reflect on their experiences in an academic context, producing short digital stories. This course is required for all returning interns who received financial support from the Program in Poverty, Justice, and Human Capabilities for service learning, and the course is suggested for PJHC minors who completed other summer service internships. Instructor Permission Required. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for PJHC 300 if student has credit for HUMA 300.**PJHC 371 - POVERTY, JUSTICE, AND HUMAN CAPABILITIES****Short Title:** POVERTY, JUSTICE, CAPABILITIES**Department:** Poverty Justice & Human Capab**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter**Course Type:** Seminar**Distribution Group:** Distribution Group I**Credit Hours:** 3**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level**Description:** This course provides an overview of the study of poverty, justice, and human capabilities. The course considers theory and economic policy oriented towards improving human well-being in the US, Asia, Africa, and other regions. Readings address not just material deprivations but also gender, racial and ethnic disparities, health status, education, human rights, and political freedoms. To be considered for the course, please complete the brief questionnaire at [pjhc.rice.edu/enrollmentquestionnaire](http://pjhc.rice.edu/enrollmentquestionnaire). Preference is given to those who have declared the PJHC minor. Formerly HUMA/SOCI 371. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for PJHC 371 if student has credit for HUMA 371/SOCI 371.**PJHC 394 - HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN GLOBAL AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES****Short Title:** HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**Department:** Poverty Justice & Human Capab**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter**Course Type:** Seminar**Distribution Group:** Distribution Group I**Credit Hours:** 3**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level**Prerequisite(s):** PJHC 371 or HUMA 371 or SOCI 371 or HUMA 280 or SOCI 280**Description:** This course explores poverty and gender in local and global communities. Readings consider human deprivations and well-being in the context of social norms, gender relations, and governmental structures. Also examined are policies meant to improve human capabilities, including both the overall effects of such policies and their differential consequences for children, women and men. Formerly SOCI/SWGS 394. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for PJHC 394 if student has credit for SOCI 394/SWGS 394.**PJHC 470 - ADVANCED SEMINAR IN POVERTY, JUSTICE, AND CAPABILITIES****Short Title:** ADVANCED SEMINAR PJHC**Department:** Poverty Justice & Human Capab**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter**Course Type:** Seminar**Distribution Group:** Distribution Group I**Credit Hours:** 3**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level**Prerequisite(s):** (PJHC 371 or HUMA 371 or SOCI 371 or HUMA 280 or SOCI 280) and (PJHC 394 (may be taken concurrently) or ASIA 329 or SOCI 372 or SWGS 322 or SOCI 394 or SWGS 394)**Description:** Through interdisciplinary readings, this seminar explores how global, national, and domestic structures and institutions influence the day-to-day lives and capabilities of different groups and individuals. We will study historical and contemporary efforts by activists and policymakers to confront social inequities. Formerly SWGS 470. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for PJHC 470 if student has credit for SWGS 470.**PJHC 477 - SPECIAL TOPICS****Short Title:** SPECIAL TOPICS**Department:** Poverty Justice & Human Capab**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter**Course Type:** Independent Study, Internship/Practicum, Laboratory, Lecture, Lecture/Laboratory, Seminar**Credit Hours:** 1-4**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level**Description:** Topics and credit hours may vary each semester. Contact department for current semester's topic(s). Repeatable for Credit.

## Description and Code Legend

*Note: Internally, the university uses the following descriptions, codes, and abbreviations for this academic program. The following is a quick reference:*

## Course Catalog/Schedule

- Course offerings/subject code: PJHC

## Program Description and Code

- Poverty, Justice and Human Capabilities: PJHC

## Undergraduate Minor Description and Code

- Minor in Poverty, Justice and Human Capabilities: PJHC

## CIP Code and Description <sup>1</sup>

- **PJHC** Minor: CIP Code/Title: *42.2808 - Environmental Psychology*

<sup>1</sup> Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) 2020 Codes and Descriptions from the National Center for Education Statistics: <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/>