The Program in Poverty, Justice and Human Capabilities (PJHC) provides students with a multifaceted understanding of human well-being, and enriches their understandings of poverty and inequality in the US and internationally. The minor encourages its students to build lifelong commitments to supporting the well-being of all people and to become 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 focusing strictly on their access to basic necessities.

Although impediments to human well-being take many forms, barriers to the capabilities of women, girls, and ethnic and racial minorities persist across societies. These groups 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 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 people in disadvantaged communities in Houston, throughout the United States, and abroad. 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, human well-being, and potential policy solutions. The program further aims to promote dialogue among all disciplines about strategies for addressing challenges to human well-being.

**Minor**

Poverty, Justice and Human Capabilities does not currently offer an academic program at the graduate level.
PJHC 298 - DIGITAL STORIES I: PRE-INTERNSHIP SEMINAR
Short Title: DIGITAL STORIES I
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 298 and PJHC 394 (may be taken concurrently)
Description: This course is designed to support student interns in summer service-learning experiences undertaken to fulfill the PJHC service-learning requirement. In addition to applying the critical lenses and the capabilities framework acquired in prerequisite PJHC courses, students will learn how to work with and assist various populations and institutions and will collect various media for the production of their digital stories. Together with the two other one-credit courses that comprise the PJHC Digital Stories course arc, this course is mandatory for students using a summer internship to satisfy the PJHC minor’s service-learning requirement. Students must be declared PJHC minors and have completed PJHC 299 and PJHC 394. Department Permission Required. Repeatable for Credit.

PJHC 299 - DIGITAL STORIES II: INTERNSHIP SEMINAR
Short Title: DIGITAL STORIES II
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 summer service-learning experiences undertaken to fulfill the PJHC service-learning requirement. In addition to applying the critical lenses and the capabilities framework acquired in prerequisite PJHC courses, students will learn how to work with and assist various populations and institutions and will collect various media for the production of their digital stories. Together with the two other one-credit courses that comprise the PJHC Digital Stories course arc, this course is mandatory for students using a summer internship to satisfy the PJHC minor’s service-learning requirement. Students must be declared PJHC minors and have completed PJHC 298, PJHC 371, and PJHC 394. Department Permission Required. Repeatable for Credit.

PJHC 300 - DIGITAL STORIES III: REFLECTION AND PRODUCTION
Short Title: DIGITAL STORIES III
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: This course is designed for students returning from a summer internship experience undertaken to fulfill the PJHC service-learning requirement. Students will reflect on their experiences in an academic context, and, drawing from photos, videos, and oral materials, will create polished digital reflections of what they have witnessed and accomplished. Together with the two other one-credit courses that comprise the Digital Stories course arc, this course is mandatory for students using a summer internship to satisfy the minor’s service-learning requirement. Students must be declared PJHC minors and have completed PJHC 298, PJHC 299, PJHC 371, and PJHC 394. 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 introduction to the study of poverty, justice, and human capabilities. The course examines diverse approaches towards improving human well-being in the US and internationally. Drawing from fields ranging from philosophy and economics to history and sociology, readings address material deprivations and inequalities, racial and ethnic disparities, gender, sexual orientation, health status, education, human rights, and political freedoms. 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 human well-being and poverty in local and global contexts and communities. Readings explore human deprivations and opportunities in the context of social norms, race and ethnicity, gender relations, environmental issues, and state structures. The course examines movements and policies aimed at improving human capabilities, focusing on their overall effects and differential consequences. 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

Department (or 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 ¹
• PJHC Minor: CIP Code/Title: 42.2808 • Environmental Psychology

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