



## Course Studies

Overall, the Social Justice Minor consists of 18 hours – two required courses, one course each in three different thematic areas (See below), and a capstone experience. Specific courses and credit requirements can be found on our Web site at [www.stthom.edu](http://www.stthom.edu).

- **Introductory Courses (6 Hours)**  
Social Justice and the Church  
Introduction to Justice and Peace
- **Fostering Solidarity - Global Political, Economic, and Environmental Concerns**
- **Fostering Human Rights and Responsibilities - Ethical, Legal, and Political Concerns**
- **Resolving Conflict and Fostering the Common Good - Psychological, Sociological, and Cultural Concerns**
- **Social Justice Capstone**

## Choose UST

For information on admissions to the University of St. Thomas, contact the Admissions Department:

713-525-3500  
Web site at [www.stthom.edu/admissions](http://www.stthom.edu/admissions).

If you are interested in learning more about the Social Justice Studies Program, contact:

**Prof. John Francis Burke**  
**713-525-3814**  
[jfburke@stthom.edu](mailto:jfburke@stthom.edu)

## The University

The University of St. Thomas is truly a Shining Star in the heart of Houston. At UST, 92% of our students say they would choose us again if they could start their college career over.\*

- **Range of choices:** Degree programs focused on business, sciences, liberal arts and education at the undergraduate and graduate levels
- **Specialty areas:** High acceptance rate in Medical and Dental schools for Pre-med and Pre-dental students
- **Graduate school flexibility:** MBA program with evening and weekend classes; MLA program coordinated with your individual schedule
- **Personal instruction:** Average class size of 17
- **Personal approach:** Faculty know students by name
- **Nationally ranked:** Ranked 24th among universities offering master's degrees in the Western region by the *U.S. News & World Report* 2009 edition of "America's Best Colleges"
- **Nationally ranked:** Ranked by The Princeton Review as Best in the West in their 2009 Best Colleges: Region by Region online profile found at [www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)
- **Study abroad:** Ranked one of 20 top schools in the U.S. for Study Abroad programs according to a report by the Institute of International Educational Exchange
- **Catholic tradition:** Houston's only Catholic university, founded by the Basilian Fathers in 1947

\* According to the 2007 National Survey of Student Engagement [www.nsse.iub.edu](http://www.nsse.iub.edu).



UNIVERSITY  
ST. of THOMAS

*Educating Leaders of Faith and Character*

3800 Montrose Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77006  
[www.stthom.edu](http://www.stthom.edu)

*The University of St. Thomas is a private institution committed to the liberal arts and to the religious, ethical and intellectual tradition of Catholic higher education.*

# Catholic Social Justice



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*Educating Leaders of Faith and Character*



# College Initiative Begins Here

## Overview

The Catholic Social Justice Studies Program gives students a holistic understanding of social justice through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching. One of the most interdisciplinary courses at the University of St. Thomas, the program integrates the fields of political science, business, economics, environmental studies, psychology, communication, international studies, theology, and philosophy. Students majoring in any of these fields would find the Social Justice Studies minor to be compatible with these studies.

## Professional Development

The Social Justice Studies Program prepares students for graduate programs in the areas of social justice, social work, public administration, and nonprofit administration. Graduates of the program are well prepared to pursue a career in community organizing, social work, nonprofit management, public administration, and social justice ministerial work in faith-based settings.

Internships are available with the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Catholic Charities of Galveston-Houston, the Houston Catholic Worker House (Casa Juan Diego), as well as other organizations. These internships give students in the program practical experiences that prepare them for a career in the areas of faith-based, nonprofit, and government social justice programs.

*"My Individual and Social Justice class emphasized great figures like Cesar Chavez, Martin Luther King, and Pope John Paul II, and also great ideas like faithjustice as a single concept. The class was truly exciting!"*

Carl Estrada, UST student

## Ethos

The Social Justice Studies Program instills in its students "a humanism that is up to the standards of God's plan in history, an integral and solidary humanism capable of creating a new social, economic, and political order, founded on the dignity and freedom of every human person, to be brought about in peace, justice, and solidarity."

*Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, #19*

*"Studying Social Justice from a Catholic perspective has broadened my knowledge of the rights and responsibilities of the human person and the importance of treating all human beings with respect and dignity."*

Antonio Steib, UST student

## Community Connection

Students participating in the program are able to network with the following social justice groups: Casa Juan Diego (Houston Catholic Worker), Catholic Charities of Galveston-Houston, Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Pax Christi, Maryknoll, Dominican Sisters, Jesuit Volunteer Corps, CCVI Sisters, Network, Catholic Relief Services, and the Office of Justice and Peace, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. In addition, students in this program become integral participants in lectures, workshops, and research initiatives of the UST Rev. William J. Young Social Justice Institute covering issues from the local to the global level.



*"Studying social justice taught me how to integrate my faith, Catholic teaching, with action."*

Karina Hernandez, UST Student

## Key Characteristics

The courses in the Social Justice Studies Program:

- Cultivate in students the capacity for understanding the normative frameworks that foster just relationships in family, community, national, and transnational networks
- Develop and apply ethical decision making to specific professional and policy areas
- Connect the key principle of the dignity of the human person to specific human and civil rights and conversely to types of associations which manifest just relationships
- Cultivate in students a capacity for bringing about justice as participation in political, cultural, social, and economic arenas, according to the Catholic notion of the common good

## Vision for the Future

Students graduating from the Social Justice Studies Program are able to engage in social justice activities in a manner consonant with the vision of Vatican II, both intellectually and practically.

*"The joys and hopes, the sorrows and anxieties of the women and men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way oppressed, these are the joys and hopes, the sorrows and anxieties of the followers of Christ."*

*Gaudium et Spes - Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World #1*