# **Justice Studies Fall 2025 Registration Memo**

## **Advising Resources:**

* Read this memo carefully and thoroughly. If you have questions or need guidance after reviewing this memo, as well as the Academic Requirements page on MyMadison and the JMU catalog, please contact your assigned Justice Studies academic advisor.
* You may also contact the Justice Studies Advising Coordinator, [Daisy Breneman](mailto:brenemdl@jmu.edu).
* The [Madison Advising Peers](https://www.jmu.edu/advising/acadplan/peers.shtml) (MAPs) are a great resource, especially with Gen Ed, degree, or university elective requirements, or other general advising questions.

## Overrides:

* The department works off the waitlist; we do not give overrides.
* If a course is full, you can put your name on the waitlist; the waitlist is first-come, first-served, and does not mean, or guarantee, you’ll be enrolled in the course; you should enroll in another course so that you have alternatives.
* JUST 399 or 400 are the exceptions; make these courses the FIRST courses you enroll in. If you are a senior and cannot enroll in the course, contact the department at [justicestudies@jmu.edu](mailto:justicestudies@jmu.edu) as soon as possible (before your enrollment appointment); we cannot guarantee placement in specific sections.
* CHECK MyMadison before your enrollment appointment to make sure you don’t have any holds on your record that might prevent you from registering. It’s very important that you enroll during your enrollment appointment (also listed on MyMadison); we cannot offer overrides to students who missed their enrollment appointment.

## **Progression in the major:**

* It takes **at least 5 semesters** to complete the major, due to the prerequisite structure:
  + **JUST 200 is a prerequisite** for all other JUST major courses; students must successfully complete JUST 200 in order to take any other JUST course, no exceptions.
  + JUST 200 and at least one foundation course (JUST 210, JUST 212, JUST 235, JUST 237, JUST 221, or JUST 223) are prerequisites for all 300-level courses.
  + Students must take at least one 300-level course before taking JUST 399; MATH 220 is another prerequisite for JUST 399.
  + Successful completion of JUST 399 is a prerequisite for JUST 400.
* Check your **Academic Requirements** page on MyMadison to determine which requirements you’ve met and which you still need to meet, as well as which courses will count as your concentration electives or General Major electives.
* Students may choose either **the General Major, or a Concentration**, ideally early on in their Justice Studies career. If you intend to complete a concentration in the major, you must declare it in MyMadison or your Academic Requirements page in MyMadison will not be accurate; check your Academic Requirements page or your transcript to see if a concentration is listed. Be aware that it may not be advisable to declare or change a concentration if you've already taken a lot of major courses, as it will change the requirements for the major.
* All Justice Studies majors follow **the catalog year when they declared the Justice Studies major**; the year and those requirements will be reflected on the Academic Requirements page in MyMadison. **It’s important to access the catalog from your correct catalog year!**
* At least 4 of the 6 required upper-level major electives must be JUST-designated. You should also refer to the Undergraduate Catalog and Academic Requirements on MyMadison for more information about major requirements.

## **JUST 301:**

Each section of JUST 301: Advanced Special Topics deals with a different topic**. Students cannot repeat the same/similar topic for credit**, including if the course number has changed; otherwise, there’s no limit on the number of JUST 301s (of different topics) students can take.

Here are the 301s being offered for the Fall 2025 semester:

* **Section 01, Comic Book Justice (Concentrations A, B, C, and the General Major)**

This course on Comic Book Justice will examine themes of justice in [superhero] comic books, graphic novels, and film/television/video games. We will examine popular depictions of crime, vigilantism, and punishment in comic book media, as well as ways that gender, race/ethnicity, sexuality, disability, etc. have been presented in superhero media.

* **Section 02,** **Communities and Courts (Concentrations A, C, and the General Major)**

This course immerses students in procedures and processes at the local Circuit and General District Courts and Drug Court located on Court Square in Harrisonburg to gather information and evidence regarding legal proceedings and outcomes in these spaces. Simultaneously, at a macro level, students examine the complex relationships between public order, individual rights, court actors, community members, and multifaceted conceptualizations of justice. Students are required to attend about half of the classes on campus, but much of class time requires students to observe and collect data from court proceedings in local courtrooms.

* **Section 03, Cyber Crime (Concentration A and the General Major)**

This class examines the topic of cybercrime. The course focuses on the criminological explanations of cybercrime perpetration in addition to the challenges faced by the criminal justice system in combatting cyber criminality. Various types of cybercrime are explored including hacking, online fraud, cyberbullying, and cyberterrorism.

* **Section 04, Ethnic Conflict and Resolution (Concentrations A, B, C and the General Major)**

This course offers an in-depth exploration of the intricate dynamics surrounding ethnic conflicts and the multifaceted strategies for their resolution. It critically examines the historical, social, and political foundations of ethnic tensions, providing a comprehensive understanding of how these conflicts have evolved over time. Students will engage with a diverse array of theoretical frameworks that shed light on the underlying causes and implications of ethnic strife. The course is designed to equip students with both the theoretical knowledge and practical skills necessary to address and resolve ethnic conflicts, ultimately fostering a culture of peace, understanding, and coexistence in diverse societies.

* **Section 05, Eugenics (Concentrations A, B, C, and the General Major)**

This interdisciplinary course examines historical and current events, theories, and practices related to eugenics movements in the United States and globally. Using a wide range of tools and methods, students will explore the rhetorical, ethical, justice, and other contexts and legacies of eugenics, with an emphasis on engaged learning approaches, including community and project-based learning.

## **JUST 400: Senior Seminar**

Graduating seniors should make JUST 400 the first course they select in constructing a schedule.

**JUST 400, Section 1**

This section is open-topic. Students are expected to enter JUST 400 with a proposed area of study, and will spend the semester developing a thesis. Class discussion and review of individual projects, along with oral presentation of work, are integral parts of the course. Students are expected to produce a piece of original scholarship related to their study in the major. This means you should enter this course with a strong idea for what kind of a term paper / senior thesis you plan to research and write. Be sure that you do so. In this section we will study academic writing practices and work on your term papers. The topics are your choice, though they must be grounded in the study of justice.

**JUST 400, Section 2: Doing Justice**

The Senior Seminar capstone course in the Justice Studies major serves as a culminating academic experience. In this section of the course, students will learn how to develop an issue of justice into a social action proposal to change or create a policy, program, or practice. My hope is that you will develop a deeper understanding of advocacy, public issues, power, democracy, social change, and justice by integrating research, theory, and praxis. There is one required book for the course: *CHANGE! A Student Guide to Social Action*, by Scott Myers-Lipton (Routledge). It is fine to use any edition of this book.

## ****JUST 401: Internships****

* Internships are recommended, but not required, and are by application only.
* Most students complete internships over the summer, as the requirements can be hard to meet during the regular semester.
* 180 hours are required (for the 3-credit section), in addition to academic work related to the experience.
* Students must apply and be accepted, and then, with permission, enroll in the internship course, JUST 401, for academic credit; requirements include junior or senior status, successful completion of JUST 399, and good academic standing.
* Learn more on the [internship page](https://www.jmu.edu/justicestudies/internship.shtml) on the Justice Studies website.
* Internship inquiries can be directed [to the department](mailto:justicestudies@jmu.edu), Dr. Peggy Plass, or Daisy Breneman.

## **JUST 499: Honors**

* All Honors students who are doing an honors thesis in the department must enroll in JUST 499 A, B or C (depending on the stage of the project).
* Interested students should contact Dr. Peggy Plass for enrollment information and permission.
* Students must meet the requirements [outlined on the website](https://www.jmu.edu/justicestudies/honors.shtml).