



Lakehead University
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

REQUEST REPORT

Request Tracking Number: 2013-SOC-2932
Request Title: Program-New Graduate Degree-Social Justice Studies

Request Effective Date: F-W 2014-15
Request Status: In Workflow
Request can't be split

Request Contents

Type	Title
1. New Degree	MA Social Justice Studies

Request History

Workflow Step	Workflow Action	User	Change Made	Comments	Date
Initiator	Approved	Susan Viitala	No	Submitted to workflow	11/21/2013
Dean and Faculty Council Review Stage	Approved	Susan Viitala	No	Passed at SS&H Faculty Council on November 14, 2013.	11/21/2013

Supporting Documents

File Name	Uploaded By	Upload Date	Size
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Supporting Documents Audit Trail

File Name	User	Date	Action
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Notes

Date	User	Note
11/21/2013	Susan Viitala	Passed at SS&H Faculty Council on November 14, 2013.

1.	New Degree	MA.SOJU - MA Social Justice Studies
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Degree Details

MA.SOJU - MA Social Justice Studies Start Term: F-W 2014-15 End Term: No Specified End Date

<u>Required Information</u>
Institution Unit Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
Degree Type MA
Major
Minor
Specialization
Rationale <p>The MA Social Justice Studies will be an innovative, interdisciplinary program drawing upon the expertise of multiple faculty members both within Social Sciences and Humanities, and in Science and Environmental Studies and Health Studies to maximize the use of existing resources, to provide opportunities for graduate student supervision for faculty in departments without graduate programs. The new MA will be housed in Social Sciences and Humanities and attract students from across the country and potentially international students, and will provide a unique opportunity for graduate growth and student retention at Lakehead University. This MA will provide a concrete manifestation of the commitment of the university, as stated in the strategic plan, to produce socially aware and justice-oriented students. The program has been developed based upon the following framework: A socially just society works towards more equality of opportunity for its members and equality of outcome. It values equality, solidarity and human rights and recognizes the citizenship of each human being. A socially just society creates policies and legislation that work towards eradicating structural inequalities and structural violences through strategies such as: economic egalitarianism (taxation, income redistribution and other); gender equality (implementing critical gender theories in law, policies, education, health care, the job market and other); race equality (implementing critical race theories in law, policies, education, health care, the job market and other); and more.</p>
Requirements <p>The requirements for the MA Social Justice Studies program depend upon the stream in which the student is enrolled. Students in all streams must complete the following two mandatory half-credit courses which will be offered each year:</p> <p>Social Justice 5XXX: Theories of Social Justice Social Justice 5XXX: Methods and Methodologies in Social Justice Studies.</p> <p>The following existing graduate courses at Lakehead could serve as electives in this program:</p> <p>Women's Studies 5101: Feminist Theories and Methods Gerontology 5710: Research and Theory in Gerontology Social Work 5113: Diversity and Social Work Practice</p>

Social Work 5513: Social Policy for the Provincial North
 Social Work 5611: Race and Ethnic Relations
 English 5070: Special Topics in Cultural Studies
 MPH 5237: Vulnerable Population Health
 MPH 5335: Social and Legal History of Public Health

Existing undergraduate courses at Lakehead could be taught simultaneously as graduate courses with enhanced requirements for Social Justice Studies students. Interested faculty would develop courses in new areas that could broaden curriculum not only for Social Justice Studies students, but for other graduate (and undergraduate) students at Lakehead. These courses could include, but are not limited to, courses on: homelessness, poverty, queer theory, Indigeniety, international relations food policy, water policy, conservation, media studies, animal rights, transnationalism, disability rights, mental health, third world politics, environmental politics and art and activism. These cross-listed courses will naturally act as recruitment spaces for undergraduate students, who will be exposed to Master's level students and thinking in their fourth-year class, and thus be able to envision themselves taking Social Justice Studies at Lakehead. Students completing the course work MA would complete a further six half-credit courses. Students completing the practicum stream of the program would choose four further half-credit courses and then complete the practicum, Social Justice Studies 5XXX. Students completing these complete two further half courses and then move to the project proposal and would ultimately complete the thesis, Social Justice Studies 5XXX.

A Description of Mode(s) of Delivery

This program will combine several modes of delivery.

- (a) Course work: all students are expected to take four half-credit courses. Course work stream students will take a further four half-credit courses; practicum stream students will take a further two half-credit courses.
- (b) Research project: students in the project stream will be expected to complete a 40-50 page research project under the supervision of an approved member of the Social Justice Studies core faculty. The project will be marked by the supervisor and a second faculty member and will be assigned a grade. This will replace two half-credit courses.
- (c) Creative project: students in the creative project will be expected to produce a work of visual art, music, non-academic/creative writing or other creative work as well as a 20 page artist statement/report. The creative project will be marked by the supervisor and a second faculty member and will be assigned a grade. This will replace two half-credit courses.
- (d) Practicum: students in the practicum stream will be expected to complete 200 hours of placement in an approved social justice agency or non-profit organization and to write a 40-50? page summary of the work conducted during the placement and link their experiences to social justice studies. This will replace two half-credit courses.

Budgetary Considerations

Student Enrolment

10 per year eventually

Student Enrolment Other Units

N/A

Additional Resources

Support from Dean for one-half course offset for Coordinator; 1 FCE per year for core course until enrollment well established.

Teaching Loads

2.5 FCE

TeachingSupport Services

Outside Support

Administrative assistant with another unit.