

MAJOR

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN HUMANITIES AND JUSTICE

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

524 West 59th Street, New York, NY 10019 ■ New Building, 8.65.10

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Dr. Allison Kavey ■ akavey@jjay.cuny.edu

See all major requirements at: www.jjay.cuny.edu/humanities-and-justice-major-resources

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN IN THIS MAJOR?

The Humanities and Justice major provides students the opportunity to examine justice through the humanities lenses of history, literature, and philosophy. This interdisciplinary approach means students interact with sources from all three disciplines and develop the skills to analyze them from all three perspectives. Our graduates are flexible, disciplined thinkers with the abilities to advocate for themselves and others through their nuanced understanding of justice as a culturally negotiated category. If you want to make the world better, start here!

The demanding curriculum provided by this major prepares students for law school, graduate work in any of the three humanities disciplines, Masters programs in human rights and education, and professional positions in both corporate and not-for-profit organizations.

Our most recent graduates demonstrate this: our seniors are leaving John Jay for many different law schools, Teach for America, a Masters in education, a Masters in Human Rights, an internship with a politician and another with National Public Radio, and careers in human resources and juvenile development.

IN THIS MAJOR YOU WILL ■■■

Become a stronger reader and better writer by critically engaging with historical documents, literary texts, and philosophical treatises on the topic of Justice.

Produce a senior thesis—an independent research project—under the guidance of the faculty to propose answers to questions about justice on a local, national, and global scale, and by seeking ways to achieve justice for the future.

Benefit from intensive major advising to help you graduate on time having benefited from taking electives from all three disciplines. You will also have faculty support preparing for graduate or law school applications and choosing among post-graduate options.

FIRST COURSES IN THE MAJOR ■■■

HJS 250: Justice in the Western Traditions

HJS 310: Comparative Perspectives on Justice

“This major is intellectually challenging and will prepare me to be an advocate for others. In my justice studies courses, I have conducted extensive research into issues of justice that underlie social policy and criminal justice. Benefit from intensive major advising to help you graduate on time having benefited from taking electives from all three disciplines. You will also have faculty support preparing for graduate or law school applications and choosing among post-graduate options.”

—HJ, Senior; Participant in the
New York State Assembly Internship Program;
Winner of the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship

WHAT CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS WILL YOU DEVELOP IN THIS MAJOR?

- Carefully read texts
- Logically evaluate existing arguments
- Construct evidence-driven arguments
- Use evidence from a variety of disciplines
- Use scholarly techniques from a variety of disciplines
- Develop the ability to work in multiple disciplines

WHAT MINOR MIGHT BE A GOOD COMPLEMENT TO THIS MAJOR?

HJS students should consider a double major or a minor in english and/or history and/or philosophy. Students may overlap up to two courses between two majors or between a major and a minor!

For more information about minors, go to:

www.jjay.cuny.edu/minors

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL THIS MAJOR OFFER YOU?

- Pursue internships at local justice-related not-for-profits
- Develop critical skills for succeeding in law or graduate school
- Meaningful faculty relationships
- Help preparing for professional life after John Jay

THIS MAJOR CAN BE A GREAT FOUNDATION FOR A WIDE RANGE OF JOBS, BUT SOME POSSIBILITIES TO CONSIDER ARE:

- Advertising, Marketing, & Communications
- Education (Teaching K-12)
- Government & Politics
- Journalism & Publishing
- Nonprofit & Social Service Organizations
- Research & Analysis
- Criminal Justice Agencies & Organizations
- Law Enforcement
- Law & Legal Services

GRADUATE STUDY:

- Law School—Law school admissions counselors agree that humanities majors provide students with excellent preparation for law school. The HJS major, with its interdisciplinary approach and emphasis on humanities skills, does this job exceptionally well.
- Master's and Doctoral Programs in English, History, Philosophy, Liberal Studies, Library and Information Sciences