

Topics: Social Justice & the Law

During this course we will look at the rather amorphous and difficult issues of social justice in contemporary American society in the context of the law. During the first few classes we will work to develop/build a theory of social justice jurisprudence, with an eye towards using that theory to recognize, understand, theorize, and develop law and policy with respect to contemporary social justice issues. Once our theory is established, we will spend the remainder of the course applying that theory to a range of present-day social justice issues. The goal in the latter part of the course will be to understand the complexity of such issues from a legal perspective, to critically evaluate how the law helps or hinders the goals of social justice in each instance, and to explore what that means with respect to the development of future law and policy.