IAS 3003 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR FALL 2019:

IAS 3003 Sec. 001 Law & Social Justice, MW 1:30-2:45pm, Dr. Fabio de Sa e Silva
This course explores the relationship between legal institutions and practice and fights for social justice. We will review explanations for why law, lawyers, and courts are understood to be powerful agents in government affairs, not just in the US but also (and increasingly) in the developing world. We will use case studies in areas like race, gender, and the environment to understand how social movements and interest groups have used law and courts to seek change and why they succeed or fail. We will introduce contemporary sociolegal theories to shed new light on the law/justice interplay. Finally, we will use the knowledge we have built to critically analyze current trends of development assistance to build the “rule of law” in the peripheral world. Students will develop knowledge and skills by writing and sharing strategy memos in areas of their interest.

IAS 3003 Sec. 004 Comparative Cultural Policy, TR 9-10:15am, Dr. Dace Demir
More info coming soon.

IAS 3003 Sec. 005 Global Environment, MW 3-4:15pm, Dr. Emma Colven
This course explores the spatialities and multi-scalar dimensions of environmental policy, governance and politics, with an explicit focus on dimensions of social and environmental justice. Drawing on a diverse range of case studies and informed by interdisciplinary perspectives, we will explore how axes of social difference (such as race/ethnicity, class, gender and religion) shape our relationship to the environment. We will also investigate how environmental inequalities at a range of scales are produced by, and perpetuate structures such as racism, patriarchy and capitalism. Turning to questions of governance, we will interrogate how globalized discourses of environmental sustainability are operationalized at the local scale, and critically examine the transnational networks of expertise that have emerged in response to growing environmental threats. The course is design to (1) introduce students to a broad range of topics and perspectives in the study of environmental politics and governance, and (2) guide students in connecting theoretical insights from the course to practice.

IAS 3003 Sec. 901 Challenging Global Inequality, MW 4:30-5:45pm, Dr. Suzette Grillot
We live in an unequal world and one in which gaps between rich and poor are ever-widening. Despite important gains in some areas, we still face gender and racial discrimination. We still see disparities in access to schooling and healthcare. While it might seem less important, not everyone on our planet has equal access to leisure—to public space like parks and beaches. The poor are disproportionately exposed to pollution. Personal safety also shifts depending on social location; class often determines one’s experience of security. In order to better understand inequality, we will examine how it works by looking closely at specific regions and organizations. The second goal of the course is to think critically about activism as a solution to inequality. At the same time that we will deconstruct certain forms of activism as problematic, we will also seek inspiration for building a more just society by listening carefully and learning from the work of contemporary activists and NGOs.