This course is aimed at generating an interactive discussion and providing a comprehensive overview of social justice in relation to globalization processes in the world today. The course is conducted as an intensive seminar covering a wide variety of theoretical perspectives and empirical studies as a basis for developing a critical assessment of social justice and related applications and implications in society, examining how they affect and might be affected by policy action. Taking a comparative socio-historical and cultural position, both differences and similarities in social justice and policy substance, practice, and context are considered in terms of decisions and structures relative to various contemporary situations. Special attention is given to social justice approaches used to frame and explore a range of issue areas at different levels of analysis and application. With the goal of providing both analytical insights and practical skills, the course offers an exploration of social justice questions over time and an investigation of relevant policy approaches in different countries and contexts.

Course Objectives
• understand the meaning and trajectory of social justice in a global context.
• identify institutional and societal enablers and barriers in global social justice and related policy development and implementation.
• engage relevant research and debates and analyze a range of data and information to review common approaches and problems of global social justice and to assess related policy options.
• explore complexities and limitations of different dimensions of global social justice.
• recognize and understand world-level cultural, political, and economic factors affecting social justice policy issues.
• unpack the meaning and operation of global social justice across areas and examine and map differences and similarities in effects and implications.
• analyze and evaluate the impact of different policies on social justice in relation to particular countries, groups, and populations.
• develop a multilevel and critical awareness and understanding of policy antecedents, responses, and consequences relative to global social justice issues.

Course Requirements
All students are expected to come to class prepared, having completed the required readings for each week, and to participate in class discussions. Grades will be determined by class participation (20%), a presentation (20%), two analytical essays (15% each, 30% total), and a final examination (30%).

Required Reading
In addition to selected articles, chapters, and reports, the following books are required:
*Schar School Policy on Plagiarism*

The professional scholarship and intellectual life of a university as well as the field of public policy inquiry depend fundamentally on a foundation of trust. Thus, any act of plagiarism strikes at the heart of the meaning of the university and the purpose of the Schar School of Policy and Government. It constitutes a serious breach of professional ethics and it is unacceptable.

Plagiarism is the use of another’s words or ideas presented as one’s own. It includes, among other things, the use of specific words, ideas, or frameworks that are the product of another’s work. Honesty and thoroughness in citing sources is essential to professional accountability and personal responsibility. Appropriate citation is necessary so that arguments, evidence, and claims can be critically examined. Plagiarism is wrong because of the injustice it does to the person whose ideas are stolen. It is also wrong because it constitutes lying to one’s professional colleagues. From a prudential perspective, it is shortsighted and self-defeating, and it can ruin a professional career.

The Schar School faculty takes plagiarism seriously and has adopted a zero tolerance policy. Any plagiarized assignment will receive an automatic grade of “F.” This may lead to failure for the course, resulting in dismissal from the University. This dismissal will be noted on the student’s transcript. For foreign students who are on a university-sponsored visa (e.g., F-1, J-1, or J-2), dismissal also results in the revocation of their visa.

To help enforce the Schar School policy on plagiarism, all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit student’s work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. The Schar School policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace it or substitute for it. [http://www.gmu.edu/facstaff/handbook/aD.html]

**Disabled Student Accommodation**

If you are a student with a disability for which you need academic accommodation, please inform the professor and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be recognized and arranged through the DRC.