APPROVAL FORM FOR

DEGREE PROGRAMS

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

NOTE: This form is a cover sheet that must accompany the degree program change proposal. The actual proposal should be prepared in accordance with format requirements provided in the *Guide and Format for Curriculum Proposals* published by the UCCC. Both cover sheet and proposal should be submitted to UCCC Mail Stop 9702 (281 Garner Hall), Phone: 325-9410.

College: Arts and Sciences **Department: PHI**

Contact Person: Manuel Rodeiro **Mail Stop: P.O. Box JS**
E-mail: mr2482@msstate.edu
Nature of Change: New minor **Date Initiated: 1/18/2024** **Effective Date: Fall 2024**
Current Degree Program Name:

Major: **Concentration:**

New Degree Program Name: Minor in Environmental Justice

Major: **Concentration:**

Summary of Proposed Changes:
Coursework on topics related to Environmental Justice are dispersed throughout the university in multiple colleges and departments, and are taught regularly. This minor seeks to provide students with a unified minor program of study to enhance their understanding of the ethical, political, economic, legal, and sociological aspects of environmental issues; as well as sufficient natural science background to grasp the consequences of human impact on the natural world. The minor will help prepare students for work in fields relating to sustainability, environmental planning, environmental law, and environmental policy.

Approved:	Date:
Department Head	3/4/2024
Director of Academic Quality	2/28/24
Chair, College or School Curriculum Committee	3/1/2024
Dean of College or School	3/4/2024
Chair, University Committee on Courses and Curricula	
Chair, Graduate Council(If applicable)	
Chair, Deans Council	

PROPOSAL FOR ADDITION OF MINOR
Degree: Bachelor of Arts
Minor: Environmental Justice

1. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

The Minor in Environmental Justice explores the causes and consequences of inequitable distributions of environmental benefits and hazards. It investigates the ethical, political, economic, legal, and sociological aspects of environmental issues, as well as provides students with sufficient natural science background to understand and explain human impacts on the natural world. Our course of study aims to give students an interdisciplinary perspective on the environmental and the social in tandem and how to redress environmental harms meaningfully, effectively, and fairly.

Administration:
The program of the Minor in Environmental Justice will be administered by the Department of Philosophy and Religion (PHI). The Environmental Justice Committee consisting of professors with research backgrounds or expertise on Environmental Justice will oversee the program's structure and performance in collaboration with PHI. Other participating departments and programs include Anthropology, History, Political Science, Geography, Biology, and Chemistry.

Admission to the Minor:
The Minor in Environmental Justice is open to all undergraduate students in good standing who are currently enrolled at the university.

2. CURRICULUM OUTLINE

The Minor requires a minimum of 18 semester hours with a grade of C or above in each course. Possible courses are listed below. Other substitutions are unlikely, but if a student believes that a non-listed course is centrally related to the field of Environmental Justice, that student may petition the Environmental Justice committee to approve counting the course towards the Minor. Courses that are cross-listed in more than one department may be taken under any cross-listing.

A B.A. degree in Liberal Arts (BALA) Concentration in Environmental Justice is being proposed concurrent with the proposal for the Minor.

PROPOSED New Degree	
Degree: MINOR Major: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Concentration:	
The Minor in Environmental Justice provides students with a minor course of study that explores the causes and consequences of inequitable distributions of environmental benefits and hazards. The minor focuses on the ethical, political, economic, legal, and sociological aspects of environmental issues. As well as provide students with sufficient natural science background to grasp the consequences of human impact on the natural world. Our course of study aims to give students a unique interdisciplinary perspective that addresses both the environmental and the social in tandem and investigates how to redress environmental harms meaningfully, effectively, and fairly. A grade of C or higher is required in each course. Courses that are cross-listed in more than one department may be taken under any cross-listing.	
Proposed Curriculum Outline	Required Hours
Students seeking a Minor in Environmental Justice are required to complete the following courses:	
Required Course: PHI 3313 Environmental Ethics	3

Justice Electives: GG 4543 Community Engagement in Environmental Geosciences GR 4133 Political Ecology: Space, Nature, and Justice HI 3183 World Environmental History HI 4193 U.S. Environmental History PHI 3173 Social and Political Philosophy PS 4743 Environmental Policy	9
Ecological Studies Electives: BIO 3104 Ecology BIO 4233 Living with Global Change BIO 4993 Community Ecology CH 4303 Environmental Chemistry I ENS 2101 Introduction to Environmental Science Laboratory ENS 2103 Introduction to Environmental Science GR 1703 Introduction to Climate and Climate Change GR 3113 Conservation of Natural Resources GR 4813 Natural Hazards and Processes	6
Total Hours	18

3. JUSTIFICATION AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Justification

Mississippi and the U.S. South in general have been the site of many well-known and important Environmental Justice movements and challenges. Students at Mississippi State University gaining an understanding Environmental Justice issues and solutions could greatly benefit the state and region.

MSU students would benefit from the Minor course of study that allows them an interdisciplinary perspective that addresses both the environmental and the social in tandem. The Minor will provide students with conceptual tools for meaningfully, effectively, and fairly considering how to redress environmental harms.

Learning outcomes

Students who satisfy all requirements for the Minor will:

- Learn causes and consequences of inequitable distributions of environmental benefits and hazards
- Develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and the methodological approaches of the social sciences, natural sciences, and humanities for confronting environmental problems
- Understand and evaluate the local, regional, and global scale of environmental problems
- Reflect on their roles, responsibilities, and identities as citizens, consumers, and environmental actors in our complex and interconnected world
- Develop a broad understanding of the historical and contemporary factors that shape the emergence of Environmental Justice movements around the world
- Examine how and why unfair environmental detriments are authorized and permitted around the world
- Prepare students for work in fields relating to sustainability, environmental planning, environmental law, and environmental policy.

4. SUPPORT

Please see the attached letters of support.

5. PROPOSED 4-LETTER ABBREVIATION

ENVJ

6. EFFECTIVE DATE

Fall 2024

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
Department of Philosophy & Religion

J. Robert Thompson, Head
George Hall 1010
233 Lee Blvd
P.O. Box JS
Mississippi State, MS 39762

P. 662.325.2161
F. 662.325.3340
www.philosophyandreligion.msstate.edu

February 21, 2024

Members of the UCCC:

The Department of Philosophy and Religion supports the new Environmental Justice Minor in College of Arts and Sciences, proposed by Dr. Manuel Rodeiro.

Members of the Department of Philosophy and Religion's Curriculum Committee and I have reviewed the proposal and support the utilization of our courses in this project.

Sincerely,

J. Robert Thompson, Ph.D.
Head
Department of Philosophy and Religion

MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY

Department of Geosciences
108 Hilburn Hall
355 Lee Blvd.
P.O. Box 5448
Mississippi State, MS 39762
Phone (662) 325-3915
FAX (662) 325-9423

February 22, 2024

College of Arts and Sciences and the University Courses and Curriculum Committees

Mississippi State University

RE: Department of Philosophy & Religion – Environmental Justice Minor

Dear Curriculum Committee,

The Department of Geosciences Curriculum Committee has reviewed the proposal of an Enviornmental Justice minor from the Department of Philosophy & Religion. Our committee requested consideration of Geosciences additional courses as elective options, and it was agreed to include the following:

GG 4543/6543 - Community Engagement in Geosciences; GR 4813 – Natural Hazards

We support the minor and addition of two more Geosciences courses as elective choices. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,

Sarah Lalk, PhD — Digitally signed by Sarah Lalk, PhD Date: 2024.02.22 09:23:11 -06'00'

Sarah Lalk (Committee Chair)

Boniface O Fosu — Digitally signed by Boniface O Fosu Date: 2024.02.22 10:06:04 -06'00'

Boniface Fosu (Committee Member)

Brian Williams — Digitally signed by Brian Williams Date: 2024.02.22 16:31:15 -06'00'

Brian Williams (Committee Member)

Andrew Mercer — Digitally signed by Andrew Mercer Date: 2024.02.22 21:58:05 -06'00'

Andrew Mercer (Committee Member)

Varun Paul — Digitally signed by Varun Paul Date: 2024.02.23 08:54:34 -06'00'

Varun Paul (Committee Member)

Kelsey Crane — Digitally signed by Kelsey Crane Date: 2024.02.22 09:27:09 -06'00'

Kelsey Crane (Committee Member)

Cc: Dr. John C. Rodgers, Department Head of Geosciences

MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY™

College of Arts & Sciences
Dean's Office

P.O. Drawer AS
175 President Circle, 208 Allen Hall
Mississippi State, MS 39762

P. 662.325.1665
F. 662.325.8740
www.cas.msstate.edu

February 13, 2024

Members of the UCCC:

The Department of History supports the new Environmental Justice Minor in College of Arts and Sciences, proposed by Dr. Manuel Rodeiro.

Members of the Department of History's Curriculum Committee and I have reviewed the proposal and support the utilization of our courses in this project. We understand that the minor in Environmental Justice may include our courses, and we support the use of our courses in this effort.

Sincerely,

alanimarcus Digitally signed by alanimarcus
Date: 2024.02.14 18:19:30
-06'00'

Dr. Alan Marcus
Department Head

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Arts & Sciences
Dean's Office

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175 President Circle, 208 Allen Hall
Mississippi State, MS 39762

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www.cas.msstate.edu

February 13, 2024

Members of the UCCC:

The Department of Political Science and Public Administration supports the new Environmental Justice Minor in College of Arts and Sciences, proposed by Dr. Manuel Rodeiro.

Members of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration's Curriculum Committee and I have reviewed the proposal and support the utilization of our courses in this project. We understand that the minor in Environmental Justice may include our courses, and we support the use of our courses in this effort.

Sincerely,

B. Shoup

Dr. Brian Shoup
Department Head

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

P.O. Box GY
295 E Lee Blvd
Mississippi State, MS 39762

P. 662.325.3120
F. 662.325.7939
www.biology.msstate.edu

February 21, 2024

Members of the UCCC:

The Department of Biological Sciences supports the new Environmental Justice Minor in College of Arts and Sciences, proposed by Dr. Manuel Rodeiro.

I have reviewed the proposal and, with input from members of the Department of Biological Science's Curriculum Committee, fully endorse the utilization of our courses in this project. We understand that the minor in Environmental Justice may include our courses, and we support the use of our courses in this effort to provide novel pathways for students interested in this important area.

Sincerely,

Angus Dawe Digitally signed by Angus Dawe
Date: 2024.02.21 10:42:50
-06'00'

Angus L. Dawe
Professor & Department Head

dawe@biology.msstate.edu 662.325.7577 217 Harned Hall

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™

College of Arts & Sciences
Dean's Office

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175 President Circle, 208 Allen Hall
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www.cas.msstate.edu

February 20, 2024

Members of the UCCC:

The Department of Chemistry supports the new Environmental Justice Minor in College of Arts and Sciences, proposed by Dr. Manuel Rodeiro.

Members of the Department of Chemistry's Curriculum Committee and I have reviewed the proposal and support the utilization of our courses in this project. We understand that the minor in Environmental Justice may include our courses, and we support the use of our courses in this effort.

Sincerely,

Giselle Thibaudeau

Digitally signed by Giselle Thibaudeau
Date: 2024.02.23 10:38:00 -06'00'

Dr. Giselle Thibaudeau (Munn)
Department Head

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY.
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES
MS AGRICULTURAL & FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION
Office of the Dean and Director
Box 9760
Mississippi State, MS 39762

February 27, 2024

Dr. Andy Perkins, Chair
University Committee on Courses and Curricula
Mississippi State University

Dear Dr. Perkins:

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) is pleased to support the proposed minor in Environmental Justice. Undoubtedly, there is interest among MSU students in this topic, and this new program will provide a unique blend of courses that will make our students more well-rounded and informed. Moreover, CALS is supportive of the inclusion of ENS 2103 Introduction to Environmental Science and ENS 2101 Introduction to Environmental Science Laboratory in the listing of Ecological Studies Electives. These two courses are well-suited for this program.

Regards,

Darrell L. Sparks, Jr., Ph.D.
Associate Dean & Professor
College Agriculture and Life Sciences
Mississippi State University
Box 9760
Mississippi State, MS 39762
darrell.sparks@msstate.edu
Office: 662-325-5307