

Interest in the Program

Discrimination does not exist in simple terms. The viewpoint of intersectionality posits that those with multiple minority identities experience unique and compounding discrimination. A proper understanding of intersectional discrimination — I am particularly interested in the intersection of race and gender — requires exploration of a variety of perspectives. The freedom of choice within the PST course selections fosters the nuanced viewpoint that is critical to a complete understanding of race and gender intersectionality.

Studying the intersectionality of race and gender from a wide lens is imperative for several reasons. For one, it is impossible to understand race and gender without consideration for all races and genders. In addition, success in my career aspiration as a Civil Rights attorney combatting race and gender inequalities rests upon understanding a range of possible arguments. Hence, my studies should analyze race and gender as they interact with a number of cultural perspectives and with consideration of both theory and lived experience. I have chosen a diverse course selection; my schedule provides global perspectives of politics, psychology, and feminism. The opportunity to enroll in a major that incorporates courses from an array of departments ensures that my knowledge will be well-rounded.

My proposed areas of study balance political theory with practical politics and incorporate race and gender on a global scale. To begin, *Black Feminist Theory* introduces the theoretical imaginings of Black feminism. This class will provide a framework for the ideals of intersectional feminism. *Gender Politics in Comparative Perspective* emphasizes gendered power dynamics from a globalized viewpoint. This subject area will contextualize theoretical feminist methods with race, nationalism, women's movements, citizenship, and globalization. *The Politics of Women and LGBTI Rights* and *Decolonizing Political Theory* — both of which address race and gender — discuss lived experiences and consider the applications of international human rights politics from a marginalized point of view. Together, these areas will ensure I am a well-informed student on the topic of race and gender intersectionality.

Since race and gender discriminations are so largely intertwined within cultural practices, countering sexist and racist practices requires substantive arguments. The earlier courses will provide me with political arguments, but courses in psychology and neuroscience will allow me to argue from an objective standpoint. *Developmental Neurobiology* and *The Nature Nurture Debate* are both courses based on scientific observations. The information from these two courses will lend itself to impartial arguments. More so, these courses teach the reasoning behind individual actions. An understanding of human motivation will allow me to craft my arguments to be the most effective.

This structure of classes is impossible with any other major. I intend to approach intersectionality as it should be understood — from a variety of perspectives. No other major would allow me to effectively combine theoretical politics, practical politics, and science while maintaining the integrity of my passion in civil rights law as it applies to race and gender intersectionality.