

# Peace and Justice INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR

*Continuing the long tradition of St. Ambrose in the area of Catholic social teaching and peace and justice issues, the Theology and the Philosophy Departments sponsor an Interdisciplinary Minor in Peace and Justice. The Peace and Justice minor provides students the opportunity to examine issues related to injustice, violence and social change and to develop the skills for analyzing and righting the causes of violence, so that they can be active participants in creating a more just and peaceful world.*

## Contact us:

Mara Adams, Co-director  
AdamsMaraC@sau.edu  
563/333-6343

Rev. Brian Miclot, Co-director  
MiclotBrianJ@sau.edu  
563/333-6129

St. Ambrose University  
518 West Locust Street  
Davenport, Iowa 52803

Visit the Peace and Justice Web site at  
[www.sau.edu/theology/peacejustice.htm](http://www.sau.edu/theology/peacejustice.htm)

For general information about  
St. Ambrose or how to apply:

Admissions Office  
563/333-6300 or 800/383-2627  
email: [admit@sau.edu](mailto:admit@sau.edu)  
[www.sau.edu](http://www.sau.edu)

## Degrees offered and required credit hours

The Peace and Justice minor is an 18 credit-hour configuration of courses in the Theology and Philosophy departments and courses related to peace and justice from at least two other departments. Required courses include Social Justice, Ethics of Peace and Non-violence, or Police, Problems and Practices, and the capstone Interdisciplinary Seminar in Peace and Justice.

## Program highlights and courses

The capstone seminar engages the students in readings, discussions and research projects and presentations on major issues related to peace and justice. Often a professor from another department is invited to participate in the seminar to offer her/his expertise in justice issues related to economic, social or biological/environmental questions.

To apply for the program, the student, with an advisor, prepares a proposed course of study and submits it to the coordinators of the Peace and Justice minor. Applicants are encouraged to make use of courses in their major area that involve peace and justice issues. See our course catalog at [www.sau.edu/catalog](http://www.sau.edu/catalog) for a full description of required and elective courses.

## Co-curricular activities and resources

Beyond the Peace and Justice course work, students have a number of opportunities to work with churches, human services agencies, educational organizations and advocacy programs. Other opportunities include service trips to Appalachia or inner-city shelters to work with the less fortunate—work that is so much a part of St. Ambrose’s traditions of service learning and social justice.

- Service Learning offers students an opportunity to apply their academic learning in a setting of community service. Students complete 25 hours of service, participate in regular reflection periods and complete a final project for credit. Some of the opportunities include after-school programs in various grade schools as well as Big Brothers/Big Sisters, United Neighbors and Garden Growers; elderly assistance programs with Kahl Home and CASI; environmental initiatives with Quad City Botanical Center, River Action, the Humane Society and Vander Veer Park; handicapped and hospitalized care with the Children’s Therapy Center and Genesis Medical Center; in-school mentoring in local parochial and public grade schools; and poverty and justice outreach through John Lewis Coffee Shop, Habitat for Humanity, Hearts and Hammers and Quad City Interfaith.
- PAX CHRISTI—Latin for “Peace of Christ”—is a student group dedicated to volunteerism and social justice using prayer, study, action and reflection. The group is affiliated with a national and international Judeo-Christian justice organization whose commitment to justice and rich resources strengthen and broaden the work of the student volunteer corps at St. Ambrose.
- Amnesty International, the worldwide campaigning movement that works to promote all the human rights, has a chapter on campus for students wishing to participate in human rights activism.

- Students are also welcome to participate in the Catholic Relief Services' work providing emergency relief and anti-poverty programs.
- Through O'Keefe Library, students may access the American Theological Library Association religion database, which provides information on topics such as biblical studies, world religions, church history, and religion in social issues. ATLA contains more than one million bibliographic records covering the research literature of religion in 35 languages and is an essential resource for researchers and students in theology as well as in social sciences, history and humanities.

## How can a minor in Peace and Justice help you?

Students in any major benefit from studying the areas of peace and justice. Whether working in business, healthcare or education, graduates with a peace and justice minor are empowered to work more effectively to protect the rights of people and to create systems of social justice within their own organizations and beyond.

## About the faculty

As an interdisciplinary program, the Peace and Justice minor provides students the advantage of learning from top faculty from a variety of departments including theology, criminal justice and philosophy.

**Mara Adams**, Assistant Professor and Program Co-director

AdamsMaraC@sau.edu

Areas of interest are Reformation history, marriage and contemporary theological issues. Prof. Adams is a PhD candidate at the University of Iowa. She has taught at St. Ambrose since 1998.

**Rev. Brian Miclot** PhD, Associate Professor and Program Co-director

MiclotBrianJ@sau.edu

Areas of interest are aesthetics, ethics, philosophy and religion, metaphysics, post-modern philosophy and recent continental philosophy. Fr. Miclot received his PhD from the University of Notre Dame. He has taught at St. Ambrose since 1993.