Master of Science in Social Policy Program
Approved Theory Electives
All courses in this document are approved Theory Electives for the MSSP program.

The Theory Elective requirement is intended to provide students with an understanding of how global forces such as capitalism, anti-Blackness, and settler colonialism influence policy formation and development. These courses also push students to wrestle with how to work through, with, and against policy to challenge global processes of oppression and build equitable, emancipatory, and justice-oriented worlds. MSSP Theory Electives examine these issues through the various frameworks of critical theory and through different assemblages of policy, governance, politics, and technology.

MSSP students are required to take one approved Theory Elective course from the list below. Students may take the Theory Elective in the fall or spring semester.

MSSP Elective Courses

The courses listed in this section are elective options regularly offered by the MSSP program and are considered approved theory electives.

- **MSSP 7100: Democratizing Data? Critical Data Studies in Algorithmic Governance**
- **MSSP/SWRK 7410: Gender & Social Policy**
- **MSSP 7801: Reproductive Justice Policy**
- **MSSP 7802: Qualitative Methods in Policy Research**
- **MSSP 7803: Global Abolition, Decolonization, & Social Policy**

Previously approved non-MSSP Elective Courses

- **AFRC 5240/PSCI 5290: Inequality & Race Policy**
- **SWRK 6030: American Racism & Social Work Practice**

MSSP Social Policy Topics Courses

Social Policy Topics courses (MSSP 780X-XXX) cover subjects of temporal or special interest based on current events in the policy landscape. Depending on course enrollment and interest, these courses may become a regular, ongoing part of the curriculum. Please note: not all Social Policy topics courses are approved MSSP Theory Electives.

SSPP Courses

SSPP Courses are SP2 school-wide courses available to all SP2 Master's students. SSPP courses are elective courses covering a wide-range of topics centered on social justice and equity. Please note: not all SSPP courses are approved MSSP theory electives, however, the SSPP courses listed below are approved MSSP Theory Electives.

- **SSPP/COMM 6000: Advocacy in Emergent Technology, Digital Media, and Society**
- **SSPP 6010: Comparative Urban and Distributive Politics**
- **SSPP 6020: Applied Data Ethics, Law, and the Social Good**
- **SSPP/COMM 6030: Journey to Joy: Designing a Happier Life for Social Work, Social Policy and Non-Profit Leadership Praxis and Research**
- **SSPP 6060: Mass Incarceration and Abolitionist Theory**
- **SSPP 6070: Disrupting Gender-Based Violence: Practice and Policy Solutions**
- **SSPP 6080: Climate Change and Economic Inequality**
- **SSPP 7001: Schools as Sites of Suffering: Antiblackness and Social Policy**