Micah Program  
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Xavier Hall, 325

The Micah Program is a faith-based academic and service community that seeks ways to enhance social justice, opportunity, and peace in the American city. The program has three aims:

- To offer lively interdisciplinary courses integrated around issues of social justice
- To deepen understanding of such issues by serving and working alongside the poor and disadvantaged
- To foster leadership and a sense of community by encouraging students interested in community service to participate in an enriched program of activities and, for those in campus housing, to live together in a special area of a residence hall.

Students of all faiths and all majors are welcome to participate. There are three ways to become involved:

**Freshman Project**

Entering students apply by May 1 of their senior year in high school. Upon arrival at the University, they enroll in special sections of introductory courses that encourage interdisciplinary study and reflection and, in most cases, satisfy university Core requirements. In the fall, students take both of the following:

- **THEO 100 Theological Foundations (3)**. Integrated with PHIL 105, the Micah section of this course examines the foundations of Christian Theology by exploring the origins and development of the Jewish and Christian Scriptures. Offers examples and perspectives that lead to an understanding of God and the human person as connected in a covenant of just relationships. Concludes by integrating Greek and Biblical notions of justice and applying that integration to issues of social injustice in our own time. **CO-REQUISITE: PHIL 105.**

- **PHIL 105 Historical Introduction to Philosophy: Self and Reality (3)**. The Micah section of this course, taught with THEO 100, focuses primarily on the writings of Plato and Aristotle as central figures in the historical period when Western humanity first began to use reason to develop systematic philosophy. Careful attention is given to texts on the human person and the concept of justice. Concludes, as THEO 100 does, by integrating Greek and Biblical notions of justice with application to current issues of social injustice. **CO-REQUISITE: THEO 100.**

In the spring, students take at least one and normally two of the following:

- **ASTD 322 The Urban Crisis (3)**. This course examines the roots and dimensions of the urban crisis that has transformed American metropolitan areas since World War II. Students investigate major urban problems such as racial segregation and poverty, white flight and suburban sprawl, public housing and urban renewal, riots and insurrections, job loss, and industrial change.
ENGL 190 Advanced Strategies of Rhetoric and Research (3). The Micah section of this course engages students in writing about urban problems and about the stages by which ordinary people come to participate in, or to resist, social injustice. Emphasizes skills in analytical reading, critical thinking, persuasive argumentation, and research.

THEO 260: Christian Morality (3): An examination of several contemporary moral issues from the standpoint of Christian ethics. The first part of the course studies key topics in moral theology, including character and conscience formation, the virtues, the use of Scripture, the role of tradition, understandings of natural law, and the contributions of the human sciences. The second part considers social issues, including prejudice, consumerism, development, and globalization, emphasizing Catholic social teaching and issues of social justice involving Hispanic immigrants in the U.S.

**Companions Project**

Students not affiliated with the Freshman Project may enter the program by attending Micah co-curricular activities, taking at least one course approved for the Certificate in Urban Social Analysis, and performing at least 30 hours of community service with us.

**Certificate in Urban Social Analysis**

The certificate is open to all undergraduates at the University, regardless of their school or major. Though the Micah Program administers the certificate and makes a wide variety of service opportunities and special activities available to participants, students need not be involved in those activities or have previous connections with the program to pursue the certificate. The requirements are

- At least 4 terms (or equivalent) of community service, averaging at least 30 hours per term.
- At least 18 hours in approved courses, of which no more than 6 hours may be at the 100 level.

Coursework must include

1. At least 3 hours in the following theoretical courses on the nature of justice:
   - PHIL 105: Introduction to Philosophy: Self and Reality (Micah sections only)
   - THEO 100: Theological Foundations (Micah sections only)
   - THEO 260: Christian Morality (Micah sections only)
   - PHIL 486: Catholic Social Thought
   - THEO 361: Social Justice

2. At least 3 hours in the following applied courses on American cities:
   - ASTD 320 Making the American City
   - ASTD 322 The Urban Crisis
   - ASTD 324 Workshop in the City
   - ECON 410 Urban & Regional Economics
   - ENGL 190/195 Advanced Writing about Urban and Social Problems (Micah only)
HIST 361 Civil Rights in America, 1865-1965
POLS 309 Aldermanic Internship
POLS 397 Metropolitan Environment
POLS 425 Urban Classics
PPS 200 Government and Politics of City and Suburb
PPS 408 Urban Issues: Poverty and Unemployment
PPS 420 Urban Ecology: Communities and Neighborhoods
PPS 426 Census and Neighborhood Analysis
PPS 465 Urban Criminal Justice Policy
PSY 433 Psychology of Oppression
SOC 324 Urban Sociology
SWRK 100 Fields of Action in Social Work.

3. At least 6 hours in one of the following areas of specialization:

   **Cycles of Exclusion**

   AAM 200 Introduction to African American Studies
   AAM 201 Contemporary Black America
   AAM 320 African American Culture
   AAM 483 Post 1900 African American Literature
   AAM 490 Black Women in Society
   CMM 432 Communicating Across Racial Divisions
   ENGL 324 Literature and the City
   PPS 411 Urban Employment and Training Policy
   PPS 460 Law, Courts, and Urban Change
   PSY 434 African American Psychology
   SOC 355 Juvenile Justice
   SOC 450 Social Stratification: The Sociology of Inequality
   SWRK 302 The American Social Welfare System
   SWRK 407 Child Welfare Services
   THEO 226 African American Religious Traditions.

   **Immigration and Globalization**

   IB 302 Latin American Business
   ECON 379 Economic/Political/Social Development--Latin America
   POLS 257 Introduction to Latin American Politics
   POLS 357 Third World Development
   POLS 360 Problems of Globalization
   SOC 345 The Sociology of Development--Latin America
   SPAN 223 Latin American Culture and Civilization
   SPAN 224 Meeting the Other--Hispanic Experience
   SPAN 419 Three in One--The Hispanic Experience
   SPAN 425 Cultural Stereotypes--Latin American
   THEO 359 Studies in Faith and Reason, The Theology of Gustavo Gutierrez
   THEO 349 Hispanic Theology
4. MH 490: Senior Capstone. The course must concentrate on the student’s area of specialization.

Courses taken to satisfy the requirements of the core or of a major or minor may also be counted toward the certificate. Courses, however, counted toward another certificate (such as African American Studies or Women’s Studies) may not be included.

Students pursuing the track in Immigration and Globalization have the option to study for a semester in Latin America. Courses taken there on the history and culture of the region may be counted toward the 9 hours required in that track. As soon as possible (and no later than the term before taking MH 490), students concentrating on Immigration and Globalization must fulfill a prerequisite of 3 hours of college Spanish or its equivalent. Those opting to study abroad must satisfy that prerequisite before departing for Latin America. Language study does not count toward the 18 hours required for the certificate.

In unusual circumstances, students may (at the discretion of the Director) count relevant courses not listed above by contracting with the instructor to write a substantive paper related to urban problems or community service. Contracts must be approved no later than the fourth week of classes.

Student pursuing a major that also requires a senior capstone or practicum may (with the permission of the Director of the Micah Program) count that course in place of MH 490 so long as the focus of study is on urban poverty and other requirements of MH 490 are met.

**Typical sequence of courses**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Semester</th>
<th>Second Semester</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Freshman</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Core: THEO 100 (Micah section)*</td>
<td>Core: ASTD 322*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Core: PHIL 105 (Micah section)*</td>
<td>Core: ENGL 190 (Micah section)*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sophomore</strong></td>
<td>Study in Latin America (optional)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Core: SPAN 110</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Junior</strong></td>
<td>SOC 345*</td>
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<td>Core (Cultural Diversity): POLS 257*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Senior</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>MH A 490*</td>
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* Courses marked with an asterisk offer an illustration of the sort of coursework necessary to satisfy requirements for the Certificate in Urban Social Analysis with a specialization in Immigration and Globalization.