

COMMUNITY STUDIES PROGRAM EMPHASES

Health Justice

is a multidimensional concept with objective and subjective aspects. Justice refers to equity, not simply equality but fairness. Health is both a state of well-being (physical, mental, social) and a capacity to create and improve health at individual, community, and institutional/structural levels. In this context, health justice refers to the fair distribution of health care and fair distribution of opportunities to prevent illness, build well-being for all individuals, communities, and neighborhoods, and reduce suffering wherever possible

Economic Justice and Political Economy

refers to the study of the social relations, and especially the power relations (for example of race, class, gender, age, and sexuality), shaping the production, distribution, and consumption of resources in society. The goal is developing knowledge about how people and communities gain access to basic human needs like housing, jobs, credit, even food. How are those markets structured, why, and by and for whom? What are the relationships among private enterprise, the public sector (government at all levels), and the nonprofit (or third) sector in meeting human needs?