

Human Rights

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The Human Rights Program at the University of Chicago integrates the exploration of the core questions of human dignity with a critical examination of the institutions designed to promote and protect human rights in the contemporary world. It is an initiative unique among its peers for the interdisciplinary focus its faculty and students bring to bear on these essential matters. The Human Rights curriculum includes a core sequence and an array of elective courses that examine human rights from a variety of disciplinary, thematic, and regional perspectives. The Human Rights Internship Program provides fellowships to students for practical experiences at host organizations in the United States and around the world. Through conferences, workshops, lectures, and film series, the program brings the world to the campus, incorporating the broader community into its educational mission.

Students wishing to pursue a systematic introduction to the study of human rights are encouraged to take the core sequence in Human Rights (Human Rights I: Philosophical Foundations of Human Rights; Human Rights II: History and Theory; and Human Rights III: Contemporary Issues in Human Rights). Additional courses provide an in-depth study of various human rights issues from a number of different theoretical perspectives.

Students interested in human rights are also encouraged to attend the Human Rights Workshop. The workshop provides a forum for the ongoing human rights research of faculty and graduate students in a variety of disciplines. Prominent human rights activists, theorists, artists, and faculty from other universities are among the guest speakers at workshops. Offered every quarter, workshop sessions are open to faculty, students, and the public.

The Human Rights Internship Program offers University of Chicago students the opportunity to learn the skills and understand the challenges inherent in putting human rights into practice. The internship program is unique in its flexibility, awarding grants that afford all interns the freedom to explore their interests, whether thematic or regional in focus. The program places more than thirty students each summer with nongovernmental organizations, governmental agencies, and international human rights bodies around the world. The application deadline is in Autumn Quarter. More information is available on the program website at humanrights.uchicago.edu.

Minor Program in Human Rights

Students in other fields of study may also complete a minor in human rights.

The minor program in Human Rights is an interdisciplinary plan of study that provides students the opportunity to become familiar with theoretical, historical, and comparative perspectives on human rights. The flexibility of this course of study complements majors in any of the disciplines. A minor in Human Rights will provide a background for graduate study in an appropriate discipline where scholarship can focus on human rights or for careers that incorporate human rights advocacy (e.g., journalism, filmmaking, the practice of law or medicine, teaching, policy analysis, service in government or intergovernmental entities).

The minor requires five courses. At least two of the courses must be selected from the three Human Rights core courses (HMRT 20100, 20200, 20300). The remaining courses can be selected from among the Human Rights core and approved upper-level Human Rights courses.

Students must receive the program adviser's approval of the minor program on a form obtained from their College adviser. This form must then be returned to their College adviser by the end of Spring Quarter of their third year. (The deadline for students graduating in June or August of 2009 is Friday of first week of Spring Quarter of 2009.)

Courses in the minor program may not be (1) double counted with the student's major(s) or with other minors or (2) counted toward general education requirements. Courses in the minor must be taken for quality grades, and more than half of the requirements for the minor must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.

Faculty

M. Bradley, D. Brudney, J. Chandler, J. L. Comaroff, B. Cormack, J. Dailey, R. Dixon, N. Fields, M. Fred, M. E. Geyer, T. Ginsburg, R. Gutierrez, S. Gzesh, J. Hoffman, J. Kelly, E. Kouri, M. Makinen, M. Nussbaum, J. Pitts, M. Postone, J. Saville, J. Schumann, E. Slauter, J. Sparrow, A. Stanley, C. Stansell, G. Stone

NOTE: Lists of qualifying courses are prepared both annually and quarterly by the Human Rights Program. For up-to-date information, visit Room 207 at 5720 South Woodlawn Avenue or humanrights.uchicago.edu.

Core Sequence: Human Rights (HMRT)

20100/30100. Human Rights I: Philosophical Foundations of Human Rights. (=HIST 29301/39301, INRE 31600, LAWS 41200, LLSO 25100, MAPH 40000, PHIL 21700/31600) The aim of this course is to help students think philosophically about human rights. We ask whether human rights has or needs philosophical foundations, what we need such foundations for, and where they might be found. We also ask some questions that tend to generate the search

for philosophical foundations: Are human rights universal or merely the product of particular cultures? What kinds of rights (e.g., political, cultural, economic, negative, positive) are human rights? Can there be human rights without human duties? Without universal enforcement? Do the rights we enshrine as human mark only some of us (e.g., men) as human? *M. Lott. Autumn.*

20200/30200. Human Rights II: History and Theory. (=CRES 29302, HIST 29302/39302, INRE 31700, JWSC 26602, LAWS 41301, LLSO 27100) This course is concerned with the theory and the historical evolution of the modern human rights regime. It discusses the emergence of a modern "human rights" culture as a product of the formation and expansion of the system of nation-states and the concurrent rise of value-driven social mobilizations. It juxtaposes these Western origins with competing non-Western systems of thought and practices on rights. It proceeds to discuss human rights in two prevailing modalities. First, it explores rights as protection of the body and personhood and the modern, Western notion of individualism. Second, it inquires into rights as they affect groups (e.g., ethnicities and, potentially, transnational corporations) or states. *M. Geyer. Winter.*

20300/30300. Human Rights III: Contemporary Issues in Human Rights. (=HIST 29303/39303, INRE 31800, LAWS 78201, LLSO 27200) For U.S. students, the study of international human rights is becoming increasingly important, as interest grows regarding questions of justice around the globe. This interdisciplinary course presents a practitioner's overview of several major contemporary human rights problems as a means to explore the utility of human rights norms and mechanisms, as well as the advocacy roles of civil society organizations, legal and medical professionals, traditional and new media, and social movements. The course may be co-taught by faculty from the Pritzker School of Medicine. Topics may include the prohibition against torture, problems of universalism versus cultural relativism, and the human right to health. *S. Gzesh. Spring.*

Courses: Human Rights (HMRT)

21110/31110. Ideal Theory: John Rawls and Karl Marx. (=PHIL 21110/31110) This course examines two important examples of ideal theory: the well-ordered society of Rawls's justice as fairness and the "true communism" of the young Marx. We focus on both substance and method. What are the two writers' pictures of the good society? What are their accounts of the rational justification of these pictures? How does each understand the role of a picture of an ideal society at a time when reality falls far short of it? *D. Brudney. Autumn.*

21400/31400. Health and Human Rights. (=MEDC 60405) This course attempts to define health and health care in the context of human rights theory and practice. Does a "right to health" include a "right to health care?" We delineate health care financing in the United States and compare these systems with those of other nations. We explore specific issues of health and medical

practice as they interface in areas of global conflict: torture, landmines, and poverty. Readings and discussions explore social determinants of health: housing, educational institutions, employment, and the fraying of social safety nets. We study vulnerable populations: foster children, refugees, and the mentally ill. Lastly, does a right to health include a right to pharmaceuticals? What does the big business of drug research and marketing mean for our own country and the world? *J. Schumann. Spring.*

24701/34701. Human Rights: Alien and Citizen. (=LACS 25303/35303, LAWS 62401) This course addresses how international human rights doctrines, conventions, and mechanisms can be used to understand the situation of the “alien” (or foreigner) who has left his or her country of origin to work, seek safe haven, or simply reside in another country. If human rights are universal, human rights are not lost merely by crossing a border. We use an interdisciplinary approach to study concepts of citizenship and statelessness, as well as the human rights of refugees and migratory workers. *S. Gzesh. Winter.*

25210/35210. Anthropology of Disability. (=ANTH 20405/30405, CHDV 30405, MAPS 36900, SOSOC 39000) *PQ: Third- or fourth-year standing.* This seminar undertakes to explore “disability” from an anthropological perspective that recognizes it as a socially constructed concept with implications for our understanding of fundamental issues about culture, society, and individual differences. We explore a wide range of theoretical, legal, ethical, and policy issues as they relate to the experiences of persons with disabilities, their families, and advocates. The final project is a presentation on the fieldwork. *M. Fred. Autumn.*

25400. Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Beyond. (=HMRT 27605) *Knowledge of Japanese not required.* This course considers the history of Hiroshima and Nagasaki through literature, film, photo essays, and nonfiction writing. We grapple with the shifting understanding of the bomb and continued nuclear testing, both within and without Japan during the cold war and to the present. We also study what many consider the current and ongoing form of nuclear war in the widespread deployment of depleted uranium in war zones and military bases—and its contested impact on civilians, soldiers, spouses, and children. In this examination, we compare nuclear bombing with other forms of bombing, on the one hand, and with its putative peaceful use as a source of energy. *N. Field. Spring.*

28604. Law and Social Movements in Modern America. (=GNDR 28604, HIST 28604, LLSO 28604) This course traces and examines the relationship of law and social movements in the United States since 1865. We examine how lawyers and ordinary citizens have used the law to support the expansion of social, political and economic rights in America. We also look at how the state and civic organizations have shaped and deployed law to criminalize the strategies of social reform movements and stifle dissent. *J. Dailey. Autumn.*

29001/39001. The Practice of Human Rights. *PQ: Completion of Human Rights Program internship or equivalent experience in a rights-focused advocacy organization*

and consent of instructor. The seminar uses an interdisciplinary approach to give students a variety of conceptual frameworks to integrate their field experience into their academic program. Course material focuses on two major aspects of the internship experience: analysis of the work of “social change” organizations and an evaluation of the student’s personal experience. The first half of this course is dedicated to readings and discussion. Students then give presentations that are subject to group critique and discussion. *S. Gzesh. Autumn.*