

Human Rights

Major in Human Rights

To complete a Major in Human Rights, students must complete a minimum of 36 credit hours of human rights courses. The requirements for the Major include the following 9 credit hours:

HMRT-1003. Introduction to Human Rights

HMRT-2013 Research Methods

HMRT-4013. Capstone Seminar

In addition, students must complete at least 6 credit hours in each of the four subfields – Foundations, Law, Social Issues, and Practice.

a) Foundations

HMRT 2033. Human Rights in Theory and Practice

HMRT 2043. Non-Western Perspectives on Human Rights

HMRT 3033. Philosophy of Human Rights

b) Law

HMRT-3013. Discrimination and the Law in Canada

HMRT-3063. Genocide, War Crimes, and Crimes Against Humanity

HMRT 3113. The Rights Revolution in Canada

HMRT 3123. International Human Rights

HMRT 3543. Human Rights and Foreign Policy

c) Societal Issues

HMRT 2023. Human Rights and Literature

HMRT 2113. Exploring Disability

HMRT 3153. Popular Culture and Human Rights

HMRT 3233. Environment and Human Rights

HMRT 3633. 2SLGBTQIA+ and Human Rights

HMRT 3803. Human Rights of the Child and Seniors

HMRT 3903. Business and Human Rights

d) Practice

HMRT 3073. Human Rights Internship

HMRT 3133. Human Rights Advocacy, Activism, and Social Justice

HMRT 3203. Human Rights Advocacy through Social Media

HMRT 3503. Moot Court

Students should consult with the Chair of the Human Rights Department to ensure that their program meets all requirements.

Minor in Human Rights

The Minor in Human Rights requires the 3 credit hour introductory course and 15 additional credit hours in Human Rights.

Honours in Human Rights

- i. Honour's students must maintain a GPA of 3.7 in human rights courses.
- ii. Students must complete the Thesis Proposal Course a minimum of one year before graduation. Upon completion, approval is required from the Chair of the Department, as well as the proposed thesis supervisor.

Completion Requirements

Students completing an Honours in Human Rights require a total of 54 credit hours in human rights, including the following required 36 credit hours of courses:

HMRT 1003	Introduction to Human Rights
HMRT 2013	Research Methods
HMRT 2033	Human Rights in Theory and Practice
HMRT 3033	Philosophy of Human Rights
HMRT 3113	The Rights Revolution in Canada
HMRT 3013	Discrimination and the Law in Canada
HMRT 3123	International Human Rights
HMRT 3063	Genocide, War Crimes, and Crimes Against Humanity
HMRT 3133	Human Rights Advocacy, Activism and Social Justice
HMRT 3603	Thesis Proposal
HMRT 4013	Capstone Seminar
HMRT 4063	Honours Thesis

Students must also complete a minimum of 18 credit hours in elective courses from the following human rights courses. Students should consult the program director if substitution of cross-listed courses is requested.

HMRT 2023	Human Rights and Literature
HMRT 2043	Non-Western Perspectives on Human Rights
HMRT 3073	Human Rights Internship
HMRT 3133	Human Rights Advocacy, Activism and Social Justice
HMRT 3153	Popular Culture and Human Rights
HMRT 3203	Human Rights Advocacy through Social Media
HMRT 3233	Environment and Human Rights
HMRT 3503	Moot Court
HMRT 3543	Human Rights and Foreign Policy
HMRT 3633	2SLGBTQQIA+ and Human Rights
HMRT 3803	Human Rights of the Child and Seniors
HMRT 3903	Business and Human Rights
HMRT 4023	Independent Study
HMRT 4043	Special Topics in Human Rights

HMRT-1003. Introduction to Human Rights

This course will introduce students to the study of human rights by investigating the question "What are human rights?" The course will proceed primarily through a number of examples and case studies. Students will also be given an overview of the basic instruments, institutions, and ideas relevant to human rights.

HMRT-1203. Global Politics (POLS 1603)

This course provides an introduction to the concepts of nation and state, sovereignty, forms of government, and political conflict. It does so through consideration of issues in world politics, such as human rights and social justice, ecological imbalance, economic inequalities, war, global governmental institutions and organizations.

HMRT-2013. Research Methods

The purpose of this course is to give students an introduction to research methods used in the study of human rights. The course will include methods of data collection as well as analysis of data. The course will begin with a general introduction to the aims and methods of research projects. Students in this course will do a research project in human rights under the supervision of the instructor. Students will be expected to present periodic reports on the status of their work.

HMRT-2023. Human Rights and Literature

This course will explore various human rights questions through an examination of relevant legal documents paired with literary works from a variety of genres (from drama to memoirs) that address each issue. The course is intended to give students an understanding of some of the most pressing human rights issues of the past and today, ranging from slavery to economic inequalities.

HMRT-2033. Human Rights in Theory and Practice

This course covers core theoretical concepts and the enduring debates in human rights theory. It will not only introduce students to the main ideas, major schools of thought, and key disputes but also prepare them to identify and critically analyze the often unspoken underlying theoretical perspectives employed in human rights discourse by scholars and by advocates in their human rights practice. Prerequisite: HMRT 1003: Introduction to Human Rights

HMRT-2043. Non-Western Perspectives on Human Rights

This course will explore philosophic and religious sources outside the Western canon, on which human rights discourse can be and has been based. The culture spheres of interest will be the Middle East, Asia, and Africa. This course critically analyzes non-western theories concerning the practice of human rights as a framework for social justice. The course seeks to place Western human rights discourse in a global context by drawing attention to ways in which non-Western cultures have addressed questions of individual versus group or state rights, the metaphysical and political sources of rights, and the possibility of universal human dignity.

HMRT-2113. Exploring Disability

This course introduces disability studies through a human rights framework and a multidisciplinary lens. The course begins by exploring the history and social constructions of disability. We will examine ableism and ageism in society and how invisible and physical disabilities, including mental health and neurodiversity intersect with our culture and institutions. Ultimately, this course will challenge cultural representations of disability in society by reframing disability as an issue of oppression, access, inclusion, and equality. Prerequisite: HMRT 1003.

HMRT-2203. Community Economic Development (ECON)

A course which explores the theory and practice of community economic development. It will include the examination of case studies of successful community economic development. The focus will be on the appropriateness and applicability of the model to the Maritimes.

HMRT-2206. The Quest for the Good Life (GRBK 2006)

This course is designed to approach the perennial issue of The Quest for the Good Life through the thoughtful reading of some of the greatest works in a variety of disciplines. The texts may include ancient and modern, all selected because they speak to and illuminate this theme. Texts will vary from year to year but will include works such as Aristotle's *Ethics*, the *Bible*, Machiavelli's *Prince*, and Camus' *The Plague*.

HMRT-2216. Human Nature and Technology (GRBK 2206)

This course will study the way in which diverse thinkers have considered the question of human nature. This question will be sharpened with a consideration of the way in which human beings considered as natural beings use and are affected by technology. Texts will vary from year to year, but may include works such as: Aeschylus' *Prometheus Bound*, Bacon's *New Atlantis*, Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, Grant's *Technology and Empire*, Miller's *A Canticle for Leibowitz*, Heidegger's *The Question Concerning Technology*, Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Gaskell's *North and South*, Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*, and Sterling's *Holy Fire*.

HMRT-2223. Political Economy of Women (ECON)

This is a seminar course examining, in depth, selected topics on the political economy of women. Potential topics include women as paid workers, domestic labour, and women and poverty.

HMRT-2233. Gender in the Global South: A Political Economy Perspective (ECON 2303)

This course will critically examine the role of women in the global South. It will concentrate largely on the changes in these roles and their correspondence with the transition from traditional to new forms of economic organization, production, and power.

HMRT-2243. Perspectives on Environment and Society (SEST 2023)

Social systems are constructed on a set of dominant beliefs, assumptions and values that are largely unexamined but shape the way societies perceive and interact with the natural world. In this course, students examine the dominant perspectives that give rise to environmental degradation, as well as alternative paradigms offered by Green, eco-justice, Global South, sustainability, and Indigenous movements. Students also engage with political, economic and cultural theories of environmental change. Prerequisite: SEST 1013 or permission of the instructor.

HMRT-2253. Introduction to Moral Philosophy (PHIL 2213)

This course introduces different positions in moral philosophy to provide alternative ways of thinking about questions like: Is our happiness influenced by our moral condition? Can we say what makes an individual or a society morally good or bad? What is the relation between pleasure and moral action? Fundamental moral concepts are treated through the careful study of primary texts by philosophers like Aristotle, Immanuel Kant, and John Stuart Mill. This course has no prerequisite.

HMRT-2263. Contemporary Moral Philosophy (PHIL 2233)

A lecture course examining a specific topic in contemporary moral philosophy. Topics vary from year to year and may include: virtue ethics, metaethics, contemporary deontology, contemporary utilitarianism, emotivism, relativism, the is–ought debate, and others. Prerequisite: Take any 1000-level PHIL course or permission of instructor

HMRT-2273. Current Issues in Ethics (PHIL 2243)

A discussion, through lectures and student presentations, of ethical theory through its application in the consideration of such contemporary issues as: pornography and censorship, euthanasia, abortion, punishment, justice and welfare, sexual and racial discrimination. Prerequisite: PHIL 2213, or permission of the instructor.

HMRT-3013. Discrimination and the Law in Canada

This course will focus on domestic human rights codes and human rights commissions. Special attention will be given to the New Brunswick Human Rights Code and the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission.

HMRT-3033. Philosophy of Human Rights (PHIL 3313)

This course will introduce students to philosophical questions concerning the foundations of human rights. What are human rights based on? What makes something a human right? Are human rights universally and permanently valid or is the notion of human rights merely a construct of modern Western culture? The course will familiarize students with alternative theoretical answers to these and other related questions.

HMRT-3063. Genocide, War Crimes, and Crimes Against Humanity

This course will examine strategies to prevent, investigate and punish genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Students will explore the protection of victims and their fundamental rights in emergency situations, the rights and duties of relevant stakeholders, and the role of international law in addressing grievous human rights violations. Prerequisite: HMRT 1003: Introduction to Human Rights.

HMRT-3073. Human Rights Internship

This course exposes students to the practice of human rights by completing a supervised internship with a local community partner organization. Students are required to complete short weekly reports and a detailed final report that encourages them to reflect on the relationship between that experience and their formal human rights studies. Instructor's consent is required to register for this course. Students should request registration as soon as possible once registration opens for the academic year. New registrations cannot be accepted once the course has officially commenced. Prerequisite: HMRT 1003: Introduction to Human Rights.

HMRT-3113. The Rights Revolution in Canada

This course primarily examines the impact of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. After an introductory discussion of the Bill of Rights and the development of the Charter, instruction focuses on a number of Supreme Court decisions interpreting the meaning of the Charter's provisions. Prerequisite: HMRT 1003: Introduction to Human Rights

HMRT-3123. International Human Rights

This course explicates the principal international and regional systems in place for the protection and promotion of human rights, including the Inter-American, European, African, and United Nations systems. Students will study the most important human rights instruments, such as the International Bill of Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights, and the American Convention on Human Rights. Prerequisite: HMRT 1003.

HMRT-3133. Human Rights Advocacy, Activism and Social Justice

This course introduces students to the theory and practice of non-courtroom-based human rights advocacy and activism. As such it complements other practitioner-oriented offerings in the program, helping to prepare students for careers in human rights by providing practical tools for application in a variety of contexts - as individual advocates/activists, working in a particular human rights agency, NGO or community-based non-profit, or for broader human rights/social movement building. Recommended preparation: HMRT 1003: Introduction to Human Rights

HMRT-3153. Popular Culture and Human Rights

This course will explore the treatment of human rights themes and issues in popular culture paired with the basic human rights legal instruments that constitute the human rights framework. The medium used to examine representation of human rights themes and issues may vary from year to year but will focus on such vehicles as television, film, graphic novels, and music. Prerequisite required: HMRT 1003.

HMRT-3203. Human Rights Advocacy through Social Media (COPP)

This course explores how the rise of social media has both advanced and hindered the protection of human rights by examining how social media provides a platform for instantaneous global information-sharing, rendering it increasingly difficult for state or business interests to shield human rights abuses from public scrutiny. Topics are examined through several case studies. Recommended preparation: HMRT 1003: Introduction to Human Rights.

HMRT-3206. Justice (GRBK 3306)

This course will explore the nature of human community and the question of justice. Themes to be addressed will include an individual's responsibility to others, the role of community in promoting human happiness, the manner in which we are both limited and fulfilled by justice, and the relationship of justice and law. Texts will vary from year to year, but may include works such as: Plato's *Republic*, Aquinas' *Summa Theologica*, Sayers' *Gaudy Night*, Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, Cary's *Tragedy of Mariam*, Marx's *The German Ideology*, and King's *Letter from Birmingham Jail*. Prerequisites: GRBK 2006, or permission of the instructors.

HMRT-3213. Power, Politics and the Planet (SEST 3013)

Problems such as climate change, species extinctions and toxic chemical pollution are global and require the cooperation of many nations to solve. This course examines the mechanisms for multilateral cooperation on environmental problems, particularly through the United Nations, and the politics involved in getting agreement among nations with diverse and competing interests, including the dynamics of the power imbalances between Global North and Global South states.

HMRT-3216. Freedom (GRBK 3506)

This course will examine the nature of freedom in the context of human life and community. Questions to be addressed will include: To what extent are human beings free by nature? Should political communities promote freedom? What might be appropriate limitations on our freedom? Texts may include Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*, Plato's *Crito*, Aquinas' *On Free Will*, Shakespeare's *Coriolanus* and Hegel's *The Philosophy of Right*. Prerequisite: GRBK 2006.

HMRT-3223. Environmental Praxis: Theory Meets Activism (SEST 3023)

This course explores how alternative visions of the future translate into political action at the international, national, provincial, community, and personal levels. This involves an analysis of alternative theories of the nature of social change. A component of this course may be service learning. Prerequisites: Must have completed 27 credit hours of coursework.

HMRT-3233. Environment and Human Rights (SEST)

This course will explore the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on the realization of human rights, focusing on those in the economic, social, and cultural realm, including the right to a clean environment, clean air, water, food, and health. The long-term impact of climate change will also be examined in the context of trends in migration and human security. Prerequisite required: HMRT 1003.

HMRT-3243. Human Rights in International Relations and Foreign Policy (POLS 3503)

This course considers human rights in international relations. It focuses on how the emerging human rights regime is affecting the practice of traditional state sovereignty. Special attention will be paid to the political and philosophical arguments around such issues as universal human rights versus cultural relativism, and the problems associated with humanitarian intervention.

HMRT-3253. Model United Nations (POLS 3613)

This course will prepare students for participation in a Model United Nations, either Canadian or American sponsored. In a Model UN simulation, students represent an assigned country's foreign policy on assigned issues on the UN agenda. The course will begin with an examination of the UN and its procedures. Subsequent topics will include researching the assigned UN issues and the assigned country's policy on them; preparation of working papers and motions, and strategies for effective conference participation. Fund raising for the trip required: half credit course, but meets first and second terms; limited enrolment.

HMRT-3433. World Literature in English: West Indies and Africa (ENGL)

An introduction to the range of literary expressions of writers from the non-Western cultures of the West Indies and Africa. The major genre studied is the novel, though poetry and essays are also examined. The focus of the course is to study the concerns of the colonized, those who were swept up by British expansion in the 18th and 19th centuries. (Categories: National or Regional, Cultural Studies).

HMRT-3503. Moot Court (POLS 3403)

Moot court cultivates advanced analytical skills while developing leadership qualities in students with an interest in human rights. Students learn how to develop and deliver oral legal arguments by competing in a Supreme Court simulation where they answer questions from a panel of judges. Students focus on Supreme Court precedent surrounding two different issues each year. Students are required to have permission of instructor to register for the course. No other prerequisites are required.

HMRT-3513. Moot Court

Moot court cultivates advanced analytical skills while developing leadership qualities in students with an interest in human rights. Students learn how to develop and deliver oral legal arguments by competing in a Supreme Court simulation where they answer questions from a panel of judges. Students focus on Supreme Court precedent surrounding two different issues each year. Students are required to have permission of instructor to register for the course. No other prerequisites are required.

HMRT-3523. Moot Court

Moot court cultivates advanced analytical skills while developing leadership qualities in students with an interest in human rights. Students learn how to develop and deliver oral legal arguments by competing in a Supreme Court simulation where they answer questions from a panel of judges. Students focus on Supreme Court precedent surrounding two different issues each year. Students are required to have permission of instructor to register for the course. No other prerequisites are required.

HMRT-3543. Human Rights and Foreign Policy

This course considers human rights in international relations and foreign policy from the point of view of constraints on sovereignty. With background from the 19th and 20th centuries up to WWII, it concentrates on the promotion and protection of human rights in the post-war period. Topics covered include: the UN system of human rights and the international and domestic politics of human rights as evidenced in foreign policy, Canadian in particular.

HMRT-3603. Thesis Proposal

The purpose of this course is to guide students interested in writing an honours thesis through their initial research process. Students will develop a research question and/or hypothesis, examine their methodology, conduct a literature review and prepare a substantial annotated bibliography. Classes are held throughout the term to assess progress towards the completion of the final proposal. A completed thesis proposal is required to move on in the honours program.

HMRT-3633. 2SLGBTQIA+ and Human Rights (WSGS)

This course explores socially constructed customs and structures of society that enable legal regulation of gender identity and human sexuality through the history, policies and norms that shape government action. Basic theories of gender and sexuality studies are explored before critically examining the same theories in practice through case studies. This course explores other identity issues such as race, age, disability, and class intertwine with gender and sexuality identities, and how experiences and identities shape the ways in which people resist inequality and lobby for change.

HMRT-3803. Human Rights of the Child and Seniors

This course examines the legal human rights structures in Canada and internationally, as they apply to children, adolescents, and seniors in unique and rapidly evolving ways. The primary focus is domestic human rights legislation under provincial and federal human rights Acts. Various legal regimes, both local and international, related to immigration/refugee law, privacy law, health law, criminal law, education law, Aboriginal law, welfare law, and other areas are surveyed.

HMRT-3813. Native Cultural Identity and Cultural Survival (NATI)

Considers cultural identity and survival within the context of inequality (power, wealth and status). Focuses on the ways in which Native language, group solidarity and community offer cultural completeness, acting as barriers to assimilation. Historic and contemporary Native cultures are presented as dynamic and flexible. Prerequisite NATI 1006 or SOCI 1006.

HMRT-3823. Native Peoples and the Canadian Form of Racism (NATI)

The indigenous peoples of Canada are often included as an afterthought in academic works on racism, which tend to focus on Black-White relations. However, rather than being marginal to understanding the issues of race and racism, the early encounters between European and Native Americans are central to its proper understanding. The issues which arose from Columbus' explorations remain as central to understanding modern racism as they were to the creation of racist ideology in the first place, and the treatment of Indigenous peoples in Canada today is shown to be a direct intellectual descendent of the material need to deny the humanity of other human beings.

HMRT-3903. Business and Human Rights

This course examines the social responsibility of corporations through a business and human rights lens. Students explore equitable employment practices, the right to a healthy work environment, equal pay for equal work, protection from discrimination, harassment, and exploitation, and the right to form and join trade unions. This course explores strategies for preventing such violations, the extent to which businesses are legally obligated to respect human rights, and the type of recourse and remedies available when rights are violated.

HMRT-3933. Treaties and International Law (NATI)

The goal of this course is to familiarize the student with international legal norms and instruments as they relate to indigenous peoples, including Indians in Canada. Treaties between Indigenous nations and European empires/settler nation-states are nation-to-nation agreements, and thus, international law, which will be discussed and analyzed. Various United Nations instruments will be studied. As well, this course will look at the history and law of various locations outside Canada such as: Africa, India, Australia, New Zealand, the United States of America, Norway, central and south America and southeast Asia. This course is designed as an upper year survey course.

HMRT-4013. Capstone Seminar

This course will consist of an in-depth investigation of one or more human rights problems. The specific topic will change from year to year. Students will be expected to examine the issue(s) in light of their knowledge of the basic instruments, institutions, and ideas relevant to human rights as well as their understanding of the fundamental questions of value that surround contemporary social issues. The course is normally reserved for students in their final year of the Human Rights Major.

HMRT-4023. Independent Study

Under the direction of a member or members of the Department and with the permission of the Chair, students explore a topic related to human rights. The course is limited to students with a proven academic record. Prerequisite: HMRT 1003.

HMRT-4043. Special Topics in Human Rights

The content of this course changes from year to year reflecting the strengths of faculty or the scholar occupying the Endowed Chair in Human Rights.

HMRT-4063. Honours Thesis

This course is the written component of the honours program and is an extended research paper on a topic written under the supervision of a thesis director. Students must have completed HMRT 3603, Thesis Proposal, with a minimum grade of B to take HMRT 4063. Upon completion, the thesis is defended in front of the student's thesis committee as well as invited members of the human rights faculty.

HMRT-4923. Collective Memory, Culture and Texts in Argentina (SPAN)

This course will explore the connections between collective memory, history and culture in Argentina. It explores the cultural production of the post-dictatorship Process of National Reorganization (1976-1983) through essays, fiction, and film. These texts and films reconstruct not only history but also those identities denied by official history. We will define concepts such as official history, Other History, and collective memory in order to understand the discursive fields from which history and memory are reconstructed.