

# Human Rights

## Major in Human Rights

The requirements for the Major are 36 credit hours in human rights, including the following 21 credit hours.

HMRT-1006. Introduction to Human Rights

HMRT 2013. Research Methods

HMRT-3033. Philosophy of Human Rights or HMRT- 3043 Human Rights in Theory and Practice

HMRT-3113. The Rights Revolution or HMRT- 3013. Discrimination and the law in Canada

HMRT-3123. International Human Rights or HMRT 3063. Crimes Against Humanity

HMRT-4013. Capstone Seminar

Students must also complete a minimum of 12 credit hours in elective courses from the following human rights courses:

HMRT-2023. Human Rights and Literature

HMRT-2103. Non-Western Perspectives on Human Rights

HMRT-3013. Discrimination and the Law in Canada

HMRT-3033. Philosophy of Human Rights

HMRT-3043. Human Rights in Theory and Practice

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

HMRT-3073. Human Rights Internship

HMRT-3113. The Rights Revolution in Canada

HMRT-3123. International Human Rights

HMRT-3133. Activism and Social Justice

HMRT-3203. Human Rights Advocacy through Social Media

HMRT-3503. Moot Court

HMRT-3543. Human Rights and Foreign Policy

HMRT-3633. Gender Expression, Sexual Orientation and Human Rights

HMRT 3803. Human Rights of the Child

HMRT-3903. Corporate Social Responsibility

HMRT-4023. Human Rights Independent Study HMRT-4043. Special Topics in Human Rights

HMRT-4053. Human Rights Leadership

In addition, students must complete 3 credit hours from the following list of cross-listed courses:

ANTH-2533. The Anthropology of Gender

CRIM-2253. Crime and Society in Historical Perspective

CRIM-2743. Social Protest in Canada

CRIM-2123. Criminal Law

CRIM-2223. Youth Justice

CRIM-3003. Government and the Criminal Justice System

CRIM-4143. Hate Crime

CRIM-4403. Feminist Legal Studies

ECON-2203. Community Economic Development

ECON-2223. Political Economy of Women  
 ECON-2303. Gender in the Global South  
 ENVS-2023. Environment and Society II  
 ENVS-3013. Environment & Society III  
 ENVS-3023. Environmental Praxis  
 ENGL-3443. World Literature. India  
 GRID-2006. The Quest for the Good Life  
 GRID-2206. Human Nature and Technology  
 GRID-3306. Justice  
 GRID-3506. Freedom  
 HIST-2913. Historical Roots of Contemporary Canada  
 HIST-3563. History of Western Feminism  
 HIST-3873. Immigrants in Canada 1870 – Present  
 NATI-3223. Native Environmental Ethics and Ecology  
 NATI-3813. Native Cultural Identity  
 NATI 3823. Native Peoples and Racism  
 NATI-3903. Native People and the Law I  
 NATI-3913. Native People and the Law II  
 NATI-3923. Aboriginal Rights. The Land Question  
 NATI-3933. Aboriginal Peoples and International Law  
 PHIL-2213. Introduction to Moral Philosophy  
 PHIL-2233. Contemporary Moral Philosophy  
 PHIL-2243. Current Issues in Ethics  
 PHIL-2253. Ethics of Sustainability  
 POLS-1603. Global Politics  
 POLS-2803. Western Tradition of Political Philosophy I  
 POLS-2813. Western Tradition of Political Philosophy II  
 POLS-3503. Human Rights and International Relations  
 POLS-3613. Model United Nations  
 SOCI-2416. Inequality in Society  
 SOCI-2443. Racialization, Racism & Colonialism  
 SOCI-2613. Sociology of Gender  
 SOCI-3043. Qualitative Research Methods  
 SOCI-3313. Sociology of Law  
 SOCI-3323. Sociology of Women and Law  
 SPAN-4923. Collective Memory, Culture and Texts in Argentina  
 STS-2403. Science, Technology and War  
 STS-3303. Sex, Science, and Gender  
 STS-3503. Feminism and Technoscience

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

## Honours in Human Rights

Please note you need to be accepted into the honours program. Please send an email to Dr. Amanda DiPaolo (dipaolo@stu.ca) for permission before enrolling in the thesis proposal course.

Candidates will be expected to maintain a 3.3 GPA in the Honours subject.

## Completion Requirements

Students completing an Honours in Human Rights require a total of 54 credit hours in human rights, including the following required 39 credit hours of courses:

- HMRT-1006. Introduction to Human Rights
- HMRT-2003. Research Methods
- HMRT-3033. Philosophy of Human Rights
- HMRT-3043. Human Rights in Theory and Practice
- HMRT-3113. The Rights Revolution in Canada
- HMRT-3013. Discrimination and the Law in Canada
- HMRT-3123. International Human Rights
- HMRT-3063. Crimes Against Humanity
- HMRT-3133. Activism and Social Justice
- HMRT-3603. Thesis Proposal
- HMRT-4013. Capstone Seminar
- HMRT-4063. Honours Thesis

Students must also complete a minimum of 15 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-3073. Human Rights Internship
- HMRT-3133. Activism and Social Justice
- HMRT-3203. Human Rights Advocacy through Social Media
- HMRT-3503. Moot Court
- HMRT-3543. Human Rights and Foreign Policy
- HMRT-3633. Gender Expression, Sexual Orientation and Human Rights
- HMRT 3803. Human Rights of the Child
- HMRT-3903. Corporate Social Responsibility
- HMRT-4023. Human Rights Independent Study
- HMRT-4043. Special Topics in Human Rights
- HMRT-4053. Human Rights Leadership

### HMRT-1006. Introduction to Human Rights

This course will introduce students to the study of human rights by investigating the question what is a human right? 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 memoir) 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 critically analyzes different theories concerning the practice of human rights as a framework for social justice. A variety of texts from thinkers such as Rawls, Grant, Locke, Marx, DuBois, and De Tocqueville will be used to analyze theories of justice, liberty, equality, solidarity, and legal certainty. This course will also examine the critiques of rights and the limitations of the international human rights movement and framework.

### 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-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 (GRID 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 (GRID 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. Environment and Society II: Perspectives on Human-Nature Relations (ENVS 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: ENVS 1013 or permission of the instructor.

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

An examination, through readings, lectures, and discussion, of some important attempts to ground ethical judgments. Themes: relativism, egoism, values, and sentiment; values and consequences; the determination of duty.

**HMRT-2263. Contemporary Moral Philosophy (PHIL 2233)**

An investigation, through readings, lectures, and discussion, of contemporary issues and authors in moral philosophy. Topics include: Nietzsche and the transvaluation of values, existentialist ethics, emotivism, Marxism and ethics, the natural law debate, situation ethics, the logic and meaning of ethical discourse. Prerequisite: PHIL 2213, or permission of the 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-2283. Science, Technology, and War (STS 2403)**

This course explores the development of modern techniques, technologies, and social systems for the purposes of making war. It also explores how wars change societies, technologically, socially, and structurally. Note: Students who have taken STS-1403 will not receive credit for STS-2403.

**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**

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.

#### **HMRT-3073. Human Rights Internship**

This course will provide students with exposure to the practice of human rights by completing a supervised internship with a local nongovernmental organization. Students will be required to complete a detailed exit report and research paper that encourages them to reflect on the relationship between that experience and their formal human rights studies.

#### **HMRT-3113. The Rights Revolution in Canada**

This course will examine the impact of the Charter on rights and freedoms in Canada. After an introductory discussion of the Bill of Rights and the development of the Charter, instruction will focus on a large number of Supreme Court decisions interpreting the meaning of the Charter's provisions.

#### **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.

#### **HMRT-3133. Activism and Social Justice**

This course will identify and explore the operations of the main non-governmental organizations at the international and domestic levels in the field of human rights. Theoretical consideration shall be given to the role of these organizations in the practice of freedom. The practical work of various human rights groups will be considered. Students will be expected to participate in the work of a given human rights group during the course.

#### **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 will be examined through a number of case studies. Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course.

#### **HMRT-3206. Justice (GRID 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: GRID 2006, or permission

of the instructors.

#### **HMRT-3213. Environment & Society III: Policy, Power & Politics (ENVS 3013)**

The modernist view is that knowledge leads to rational decisions. From an environmental perspective, however, this idea is seriously challenged. Never has society known so much about ecological and climate change; yet collective responses to these changes have failed to reverse the downward trends. This course examines this dynamic by examining the politics of the environmental crisis, and in particular the power struggles between those resisting change and those promoting alternative visions of a sustainable society. We consider how those alternative visions translate into public policy and how citizens can engage to make this happen. Prerequisites: ENVS 1013 and ENVS 2023, or permission of the instructor.

#### **HMRT-3216. Freedom (GRID 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: GRID 2006.

#### **HMRT-3223. Environmental Praxis (ENVS 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: ENVS 1013 and ENVS 2023, or permission of the instructor.

#### **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-3263. Sex, Science & Gender (STS 3303)**

This course examines how scientific research, in the late 19th and 20th centuries, has shaped common conceptions of sex behaviour and how this scientific knowledge has also been shaped by cultural conceptions of gender roles and "normal" behaviour.

#### **HMRT-3273. Feminism and Techno-Science (STS 3503)**

Examines a variety of feminist perspectives on science and technology which suggest that scientific authority (particularly in the biological and life sciences) rationalizes and normal-

izes gender stereotypes and inequalities, and also marginalizes women from its institutions. The content and positions of various perspectives (as well as counter-arguments) are studied for their political, philosophical, and epistemic assumptions. Prerequisite: at least 9 credit hours in STS or permission of the instructor.

#### **HMRT-3283. Science, Religion, and Galileo's Trial (STS 3063)**

Examines the complex interactions between Western science and the Judeo-Christian religious tradition in the ancient, medieval, and early modern periods culminating with a close study of Galileo's trial by the Inquisition in 1632 to reveal how variable and complex interactions between science and religion have been characterized at different times by conflict, cooperation, separation, understanding, misunderstanding, dialogue, and alienation. Prerequisite: STS 2243 or permission of the instructor.

#### **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 nineteenth and twentieth 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-3633. Gender Expression, Sexual Orientation, and Human Rights (GEND)**

This course explores the socially constructed customs and structures of society that enable the legal regulation of gender identity and sexual orientation. Topics such as gender expression, access to health care and legal protections for sexual minorities will be approached through a variety of material and media, such as academic works, case studies, historical and legal texts, literary works, and film.

**HMRT-3803. Human Rights of the Child**

This course examines the legal human rights structures in Canada and internationally, as they apply to children and adolescents in unique and rapidly evolving ways. The primary focus is on 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, child welfare law, and other areas will be surveyed.

**HMRT-3903. Corporate Social Responsibility**

This course looks at the social responsibility of corporations. Students will 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-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**

Students may undertake studies under the direction of a member or members of the program with the permission of the Director. The course is limited to students with a proven academic record.

**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 Chair in Canadian Citizenship and Human Rights.

**HMRT-4053. Human Rights Leadership**

This course will provide students with exposure to the practice of human rights, encouraging them to reflect on the relationship between that experience and their formal human rights studies. Students must obtain approval from the Director of the Human Rights Programme for their participation in this course.

**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.

#### **HMRT-5503. Teaching for and About Human Rights**

This course is offered during the human rights summer institute designed for pre-service teachers, practicing teachers, and professionals in related fields. The course introduces participants to the various rights, instruments, and issues relevant to the classroom and provides opportunities for teachers and others to increase their knowledge base in the human rights field.