



# Undergraduate Human Rights Program

## Major and Concentration Requirements

Human rights are central to contemporary understandings of justice and equality, and they have crucial bearing on the ability to assess and respond to emerging political, economic, social, and cultural issues. The Institute for the Study of Human Rights seeks to engage students in this dynamic and evolving field and enhance their knowledge, skills, and commitment to human rights through its major/concentration and extracurricular programming and support.

### Human Rights Concentration Requirements

The concentration in human rights requires a total of 8 courses for a minimum of 24 credits.

1. HRTS UN3001 Introduction to Human Rights
2. Seven additional human rights courses (One of these seven courses must be a seminar)

### Human Rights Major Requirements

The major in human rights requires a minimum of 31 total credits. One of the distributional or specialization courses must be a seminar.

#### Core Courses (10 credits)

1. HRTS UN3001 Introduction to Human Rights (3 credits)
2. HRTS UN3190 International Human Rights Law (3 credits)
3. HRTS UN3995 Human Rights Senior Seminar (4 credits)

#### Distributional Requirements

Students take one course in three of these four categories (three courses), for a minimum of 9 credit points:

1. Politics and History
2. Culture and Representation
3. Political Theory and Philosophy
4. Social and Economic Processes

#### Specialization

Students fulfill the specialization requirement by focusing on a particular discipline, taking four courses for a minimum of 12 credit points offered by a single department or institute. The goal of the specialization requirement is to equip students with the tools of a specific discipline. Students should inform the human rights program of their intended specialization before taking courses to fulfill this requirement. As a general rule, fields of study listed as academic programs (<http://www.college.columbia.edu/academics/programs>) on the bulletin are approved for the specialization requirement if a free-standing major is offered. Students are encouraged to take courses within their chosen specialization that focus on human rights issues, but the specialization requirement can be fulfilled by taking any four courses within the same discipline. For example, if a student's

specialization is Political Science, he or she can fulfill the specialization requirement by taking any four POLS courses. Students are encouraged to take any core and/or methodology courses required by a program when fulfilling their specialization requirement.

## Course Advising

Each semester, the program publishes a list of pre-approved courses that automatically fulfill degree requirements as well as a list of additional courses of potential interest. This list is available at: <http://www.humanrightscolumbia.org/education/undergraduate/undergraduate-courses>. Courses that are not on the pre-approved list may also be approved for the degree if the student can demonstrate that he or she can complete substantial coursework specifically focusing on human rights in that course.

Students should consult with the program before registration to discuss degree progress and course selection. Students can use the online course advising form available on the ISHR website and/or set up meeting with a department advisor by emailing [uhrp@columbia.edu](mailto:uhrp@columbia.edu).

## Departmental Honors

To be eligible for departmental honors, a student must satisfy all the requirements for the major, maintain a 3.6 GPA in the major, maintain an overall GPA of 3.6, and complete a thesis of sufficiently high quality to merit honors. A thesis is required of all students who wish to be considered for honors, but does not guarantee honors. Students interested in writing a thesis for honors consideration complete a two-semester course sequence during their final year of study. In the fall, students take HRTS UN3994 Human Rights Senior Seminar: Research Methods and in the spring, HRTS UN3996 Human Rights Thesis Seminar. Students should refer to the ISHR website for complete honors policies.

## Extracurricular Opportunities and Resources

- Human Rights Essay Contest and Student Colloquium
- Internship and research stipends and the Myra Kraft Prizes in Human Rights
- Professor Speaker Series
- Human Rights Student Networking Series
- Job and internship resources and events
- Brownbags, discussions and film screenings
- Columbia University Students for Human Rights (CUSHR) and other student groups
- RightsViews Blog: <http://blogs.cuit.columbia.edu/rightsviews/>

### Advising/Questions

Please contact [uhrp@columbia.edu](mailto:uhrp@columbia.edu) with questions or to set up an advising appointment.

Director of Undergraduate Studies – Andrew Nathan

Director, Education Programs – Gergana Halpern

Program homepage: <http://www.humanrightscolumbia.org/education/undergraduate>