

# Human Rights (HUMR)

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**Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies**  
**Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

## **HUMR 1001 [1.0 credit]**

### **Introduction to Human Rights**

Human rights from an interdisciplinary perspective. Topics may include the foundations and nature of rights, roots of inequality and oppression, aboriginal rights, racism, women and rights, sexual orientation, state and corporate power, economic exploitation, the environment and rights, warfare, torture, and social movements.

Precludes additional credit for FYSM 1104 and ISSC 1001/ ANTH 1010/SOCI 1010 (no longer offered).

Lecture and discussion groups three hours a week.

## **HUMR 2001 [0.5 credit]**

### **Human Rights: Theories and Foundations**

Historical overview of the theoretical and philosophical approaches underlying the human rights movement and relevant to the normative ideals and aspirations of human rights and to the strategies of their implementation.

Prerequisite(s): second-year standing or permission of the Institute.

Lectures and discussion groups three hours a week.

## **HUMR 2202 [0.5 credit]**

### **Power Relations and Human Rights**

The study of power from a critical, transnational perspective; the impact on human rights of different forms and modalities of power, including those emanating from the state and corporations and those implicated in socio-economic and other hierarchical relations.

Prerequisite(s): second-year standing or permission of the Institute.

Lectures and discussion groups three hours a week.

## **HUMR 2301 [0.5 credit]**

### **Human Rights and Sexualities**

Human rights issues in various cultural contexts concerning sex and/or gender, with attention to sexual minorities such as gay, lesbian, and transgendered persons. Forms of discrimination against sexual minorities and the mechanisms and strategies for redress.

Prerequisite(s): second-year standing or permission of the Institute.

Lectures and discussion groups three hours a week.

## **HUMR 2401 [0.5 credit]**

### **Political Repression: Impacts and Responses**

Canada is home-in-exile to many who have faced severe and often life-threatening political repression such as imprisonment, torture, surveillance, population transfer, etc. This course examines the impacts on survivors of political repression, and strategies used to overcome its legacies.

Prerequisite(s): second-year standing or permission of the Institute.

Lectures and discussion groups three hours a week.

## **HUMR 2402 [0.5 credit]**

### **Agents of Political Violence**

The processes used in preparing individuals to commit torture, murder and other forms of violence on behalf of a state or associated organizations, and how such violence is justified by its direct perpetrators, their commanders (police/military and political), and members of their society. Precludes additional credit for HUMR 3402 (no longer offered).

Prerequisite(s): second-year standing or permission of the Institute.

Lectures and discussion groups three hours a week.

## **HUMR 2502 [0.5 credit]**

### **Social and Political Movements**

The underlying conditions and developments of historical and contemporary social and political movements; specific social movements such as civil rights or gay rights.

Prerequisite(s): second-year standing or permission of the Institute.

Lectures and discussion groups three hours a week.

## **HUMR 3001 [0.5 credit]**

### **Special Topics in Human Rights**

This advanced seminar will cover current and topical issues and/or debates in human rights, and will enable students to engage in focused discussions and analyses of these issues. Topics will vary from year to year.

Prerequisite(s): third-year standing or permission of the Institute.

Lectures three hours a week.

## **HUMR 3002 [0.5 credit]**

### **Right to the City**

"The right to the city" as an emerging focus of advocacy and analysis in urban movements for social justice around especially the local and transnational dimensions of the "right to the city" movement.

Precludes additional credit for HUMR 3001 if taken prior to 2013-14.

Prerequisite(s): third year standing or permission of the Institute.

Lectures three hours a week.

## **HUMR 3202 [0.5 credit]**

### **Human Rights and Resistance**

This course problematizes human rights paradigms and critically examines the limitations of the political within liberal democracies. Bringing together theory and politics, alternative approaches to activism are explored. Topics may include struggles grounded in radical democracy, anti-capitalism, and social justice perspectives.

Prerequisite(s): third-year standing or permission of the Institute.

Lectures three hours a week.

**HUMR 3301 [0.5 credit]****Racialization, Racism and Human Rights**

The forms and effects of systemic race-based human rights abuses. Topics may include immigration and refugee policies and practices, anti-apartheid regimes, racial profiling, the racial politics of "nationhood"; and armed conflict, civil rights and resistance movements in differing cultural contexts.

Prerequisite(s): third-year standing or permission of the Institute.

Lectures three hours a week.

**HUMR 3302 [0.5 credit]****Culture, Religion, and Women's Human Rights**

The impact of cultural and religious traditions on women's human rights. Topics may include the impact of gender roles on the status of women, cultural relativism, and strategies used to advance women's human rights such as NGOs engagements with CEDAW.

Prerequisite(s): third-year standing or permission of the Institute.

Lectures three hours a week.

**HUMR 3303 [0.5 credit]****Children's Rights**

This course profiles the global human rights issues of children and relates them to the international treaties and mechanisms to address them. Topics may include children in armed conflict; child sex tourism; the rights of indigenous children; and gender-based violence against children.

Also listed as CHST 3303.

Precludes additional credit for CHST 3901 (no longer offered).

Prerequisite(s): third-year standing or permission of the Institute.

Lectures three hours a week.

**HUMR 3401 [0.5 credit]****Histories of Persecution and Genocide**

Case studies in persecution and/or genocide in different cultural contexts. The social, political, and legal conditions that have enabled the institutional or state-sanctioned persecution of targeted groups, and the circumstances that had an impact on their decline.

Prerequisite(s): third-year standing or permission of the Institute.

Lectures three hours a week.

**HUMR 3501 [0.5 credit]****Social, Economic and Cultural Rights**

The development of social, economic and cultural rights, including rights to housing, healthcare, education and employment. Topics may include the international geopolitics of the historical tension between these rights and civil and political rights.

Prerequisite(s): third-year standing or permission of the Institute.

Lectures three hours a week.

**HUMR 3502 [0.5 credit]****Corporations and Human Rights**

Corporate involvement in human rights violations, with attention to how corporations encourage, participate in, and benefit from political repression and warfare. How the relationship between corporate and state interests affects the implementation of measures for corporate accountability.

Prerequisite(s): third-year standing or permission of the Institute.

Lectures three hours a week.

**HUMR 3503 [0.5 credit]****Global Environmental Justice**

Overview of critical debates on environmental issues from a global social justice perspective. Topics may include corporate mining, food sovereignty, poverty, economic exploitation, Indigenous cosmologies and environmental justice, militarization and environmental degradation, privatization of water and climate change.

Prerequisite(s): third-year standing or permission of the Institute.

Lectures three hours a week.

**HUMR 3504 [0.5 credit]****Public Health and Human Rights**

Through a social-scientific analysis of AIDS, this course explores HIV/AIDS as a case study for understanding the politics of public health. Students will critically interrogate the authority of science and explore avenues for democratizing biomedicine and public health policy in various national and policy contexts.

Precludes additional credit for HUMR 3001 Section "A" if taken in 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Prerequisite(s): third-year standing or permission of the Institute.

Lectures three hours a week.

**HUMR 4201 [0.5 credit]****Citizenship and Human Rights**

The relationship between citizenship and human rights; how large groups of people, including non-citizens and refugees, are excluded from entitlements to rights. Why human rights rest on citizenship, and with what implications.

Prerequisite(s): fourth-year standing or permission of the Institute.

Seminar three hours a week.

**HUMR 4302 [0.5 credit]****Transgender Human Rights**

Critical analyses of human rights through an examination of transgender subjectivities. The systemic erasure of trans people within society and the struggles of some activists to normalize trans identities.

Prerequisite(s): fourth-year standing or permission of the Institute.

Seminar three hours a week.

**HUMR 4303 [0.5 credit]****Disability Rights**

A critical approach to the study of disability rights by exploring the intersections of disability with race, sexuality, gender, colonialism, 'health', and other discourses.

Prerequisite(s): fourth-year standing or permission of the Institute.

Seminar three hours a week.

**HUMR 4401 [0.5 credit]****Gender, Citizenship and Social Justice in a Transnational World**

This seminar critically engages with transnational, gendered, classed, and racialized discursive practices of citizenship, human rights, the geopolitics of knowledge and processes of dehumanization through the lenses of decolonial social justice.

Prerequisite(s): fourth-year standing or permission of the Institute.

Seminar three hours a week.

**HUMR 4402 [0.5 credit]****Terror and Human Rights**

The human rights implications of terror, terrorism and/or the 'war on terror.' Topics may include the use of terrorism as a justification for the use of military force, and the impact of racial profiling, arrest warrants, security certificates; detentions; and deportations.

Prerequisite(s): fourth-year standing or permission of the Institute.

Seminar three hours a week.

**HUMR 4404 [0.5 credit]****Rights of Refugees and Displaced Persons**

Contemporary issues concerning the rights of refugees and displaced persons, from social, political, and legal perspectives; Canadian and international dimensions of these issues.

Prerequisite(s): fourth-year standing or permission of the Institute.

Seminar three hours a week.

**HUMR 4502 [0.5 credit]****Global Indigenous Knowledges and Movements**

Indigenous Peoples contributions to world knowledge through community resistance, social movements and scholarship. How processes of corporate globalization impact Indigenous Peoples lives as an ongoing process of normalizing a reconfigured modern coloniality of power.

Prerequisite(s): fourth-year standing or permission of the Institute.

Seminar three hours a week.

**HUMR 4905 [0.5 credit]****Practicum Placement in Human Rights I**

This course provides students with the opportunity to spend one day per week (6-8 hours) working and learning at a human rights-related government, research or advocacy organization. A written report is required at the end of the placement. Graded as Sat/Uns.

Prerequisite(s): fourth-year standing in Human Rights or permission of the Institute.

**HUMR 4906 [0.5 credit]****Practicum Placement in Human Rights II**

This course provides students with the opportunity to spend one day per week (6-8 hours) working and learning at a human rights-related government, research or advocacy organization. A written report is required at the end of the placement. Graded as Sat/Uns.

Prerequisite(s): fourth-year standing in Human Rights and a GPA of 9.8 or higher or permission of the Institute.

**HUMR 4907 [0.5 credit]****Special Topic in Human Rights**

This course features a detailed study of a special topic in any area of Human Rights. Topics and themes will vary from year to year.

Prerequisite(s): fourth-year standing or permission of the Institute.

Seminar three hours a week.

**HUMR 4908 [0.5 credit]****Independent Study**

Essays and/or examinations based on a bibliography constructed by the student in consultation with an instructor.

Prerequisite(s): normally restricted to students with at least 3.0 credits of Human Rights courses with at least a CGPA of 9.0 or better in Human Rights courses and permission of the Institute.