

Minor in Human Rights Course Offerings

FALL 2024

- **HMRT 176 - Human Rights Concepts and Methods**

Alexandra Moore

TR 1:15 PM - 2:40 PM

Gen. Eds: [G - Global Interdependencies](#); [H - Humanities](#); [N - Social Science](#)

The first of a two-semester sequence, this course will introduce students to human rights as an interdisciplinary area of study and practice. We will examine human rights in historical, political, legal and cultural contexts, asking what human rights are, how they function, and what their limitations might be. The course also considers different methodologies for studying human rights and prepares students for further coursework, research opportunities, and hands-on engagement with human rights issues. The course will culminate in the design of a research project to be continued in the spring semester.

Prerequisite: must be accepted into the Source Project program.

- **HMRT 289A US Civil Rights Movement**

Anne Bailey

TR 10:05 AM - 11:30 AM

Gen. Eds: [I - Information Literacy](#); [T - Critical Thinking](#)

- **HMRT 289C Literary and Visual Cultures of Human Rights**

Nimisha Sinha

MWF 9:40 AM - 10:40 AM

Gen. Eds: [H - Humanities](#)

Images of war and suffering often fill the news, and painful testimonies follow atrocities. This course explores human rights discourse—legal texts, historical contexts, and cultural productions—in response to violations represented in the literary and visual cultures of our world. We consider human rights not simply as a slogan for social justice but as a legal and political belief system. Through the semester, we will read novels, memoirs, letters, legal testimonies, and historical and legal documents that shape normative notions of human rights; we will ask what the close reading of texts and images can enable us to learn about our current frameworks of human rights. Readings may include fiction like *Waiting for the Barbarians*, *Anil's Ghost*, *Paradise*; theoretical works like *Precarious Life*, *Human Rights Inc.* and *Spectacular Rhetorics*; legal and policy texts like the UDHR, Convention Against Torture, and more.

- **HMRT 289E Activism, Feminism & Social Justice**

Dara Silberstein

Monday 1:10 PM - 4:40 PM

- **HMRT 379 Migration, Citizenship & Human Rights**

Rubayat Jesmin

Monday 5:50 PM - 8:50 PM

Gen. Eds: [G - Global Interdependencies](#)

The course will examine the lives and experiences of migrant populations especially in relation to discourses of belonging and citizenship from a social justice perspective. A key aspect of the course will

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be an analysis of local, national, and transnational policies and their implementation strategies. A specific feature of this course is its emphasis on the interconnectedness of global, regional, national, and local realities, as they affect the lives of people in everyday domains. We will analyze, using a range of critical and feminist lenses, how social inequities and disparities have been historically created and maintained within and across geographical contexts.

- **HMRT 380A Exploring Queer Lives**

Sean Massey

TR 1:15 PM - 2:40 PM

- **HMRT 380C Children, Family & Educational Policy**

Maribel Tineo

Thursday 1:40 PM - 4:40 PM

- **HMRT 380F Prisoner Rights Activism & State**

Juanita Diaz

Wednesday 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

[Gen. Eds: N - Social Science](#)

The course explores: (a) how race, ethnicity, nationality, citizenship, sex, gender, sexual orientation/preference, and class, among others (e.g., religion, age), have influenced what social groups are more likely to be arrested and incarcerated; (b) how prisoners and other incarcerated populations in the U.S. have sought to change the conditions of their imprisonment, particularly as of the 1950s to the present; and, (c) the response of state actors and third parties (including former prisoners and prisoners' rights activists) to their calls for support. The course is ultimately designed to familiarize students with issues pertaining to the emergence of, and historical functions played by, penal and other institutions of mass incarceration created by local, state and federal agencies in the U.S. (e.g., private and public jails and prisons, immigration detentions centers, Indian reservations, concentration camps, military prisons). The course, of necessity, problematizes the concepts of crime and punishment and analyzes conservative, liberal, and radical theories of crime causation and punishment. Required films/documentaries and presentations by guest speakers will complement required readings.

- **HMRT 382B Race and Racism in Modern Europe**

Elisa Camiscioli

TR 1:15 PM - 2:40 PM

[Gen Eds: I - Information Literacy; T - Critical Thinking](#)

Race & Racism in Modern Europe Professor Elisa Camiscioli Fall 2024 Course Description: This course explores how race and racial ideologies have shaped European identities from the Enlightenment to the present day, and how Western social theories have constructed racial others in Europe and its overseas empires. We will focus on four primary themes – scientific racism, colonial racism, racial antisemitism, and xenophobic nationalism – in order to investigate how race relates to colonialism, fascism, postcolonial immigration; Islamophobia; and national and gender identities.

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- **HMRT 382H Archaeological Ethics**

Hilary Becker

TR 10:05 AM - 11:30 AM

Gen. Eds: G - Global Interdependencies; N - Social Science; O - Oral Communication; W - Writing

The ethical issues confronted by archaeologists are anything but past. This course aims to provide a forum for informed discussion about cultural property and cultural heritage. Students will think about what stakeholders are involved in issues raised by archaeology; what ethical, financial, legal, and political considerations affect decisions these stakeholders make; what legal statutes, ethical codes, and disciplinary practices are involved.

- **HMRT 385A Race and Gender in Arab American Lit**

Mary Youssef

TR 11:40 AM - 1:05 PM

Gen Eds: H - Humanities; O - Oral Communication; W - Writing

This course offers a deep understanding of Arab-American literary production across the genres of the novel, poetry, the short story, and fictional autobiography. While interest in Arab immigrant literature in the U.S. has particularly culminated after the events of 9/11, authors from Arab descent have striven to creatively express their racial, religious, and cultural difference; draw attention to problems of differentiation in the U.S. due to persistently dominant Orientalist discourses; and negotiate their identity and human rights, all since the beginning of the twentieth century. Arab-American women authors, in their turn, have not only addressed that same set of issues, but also highlighted their equally important, yet marginalized perspectives and experiences of difference and differentiation in the U.S. due to their gender. Furthermore, Arab-American authors who identify as Arab and Black, and whose origins are in Arab-African countries like Somalia, the Sudan, and Morocco present yet more complex expressions of identity and racial difference in their poetic and novelistic production. The course pays special attention to the diverse and complex literary articulations of what constitutes home, conflict, and identity in Arab-American literary works from the time of their emergence to the present. The course also explores the different approaches to cultural translation these authors undertake in order to create cultural understanding between their homeland and their adoptive country. In summary, we will identify the historical, ideological, and discursive conditions these Arab-American authors attempt to respond to in their works. We will read works by Arab-American authors whose origins are in different parts of the Arab world such as Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Palestine, Jordan, Morocco, Somalia, the Sudan, and Iraq. No prerequisites.

- **HMRT 389A The Postcolonial Arabic Novel**

Mary Youssef

TR 1:15 PM - 2:40 PM

Gen Eds: G - Global Interdependencies; H - Humanities; O - Oral Communication; W - Writing

This course examines, through the critical lens of postcolonial theory, novels and autobiographies—all in English translation—that are written by Arab authors from different parts of the Arab world like Egypt, Libya, Iraq, Palestine, Algeria, and the Sudan. The literary works are set in colonial, post-independence,

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and neocolonial times and illustrate how Arab writers, especially women, creatively respond to dominant forms of power in their historical contexts. We will pay attention to issues of imperialism, nationalism, human rights and equality, tradition and modernity, identity, and revolution as they arise in these texts. The course also sheds light on the linguistic, political, and cultural factors that can influence literary translation from Arabic into English since we are not reading the Arabic literary works in their original language but in English translation. The course will also highlight relevant representations of difference(s) in gender, race, class, religion, and language. It will include a compilation of readings that will help us analyze the creative texts from an interdisciplinary perspective. All literary works are available in Arabic and English. No prerequisites.

- **HMRT 389E Women & U.S. Criminal Justice System**

Juanita Diaz

Wednesday 1:40 PM - 4:40 PM

[Gen. Eds: N - Social Science](#)

This course is designed to familiarize students with issues pertaining to women who come in contact with the US criminal justice system. It focuses on the inter-relationship between gender, ethnicity, race, class and sexual orientation/preference and on how these influence the causes for which women are arrested and incarcerated, the punishment they receive, the treatment they face once institutionalized and their responses to imprisonment. Required films/documentaries will complement required readings. Some required films/videos will not be available outside class times. You are, therefore, expected to be in class when they are scheduled to be shown.

- **HMRT 389F Social Movements in Modern US**

Leigh Wheeler

MW 10:50 AM - 11:50 AM

[Gen Eds: N - Social Science](#)

DIS Section Required

Social Movements in Modern US Professor Leigh Ann Wheeler Fall 2024 Course Description: #BlackLivesMatter, Occupy Wall Street, the Tea Party—all are recent social movements that have had a major influence on U.S. politics and society. In this class, we will study a wide range of these movements, looking at how they have shaped the modern U.S. and also at how the very idea of social movements has fallen in and out of favor. At times social movements have been associated with a mob mentality and mindless "groupthink"—at others with democracy at its very best. Movements we examine include the Settlement House Movement during the Progressive Era, the Ku Klux Klan of the 1920s, Civil Rights and Women's Right's activism, the Christian Right, and a number of "radical" movements. We will use a variety of different types of sources—primary and secondary—to understand and assess these movements, in their own time and in ours.

- **HMRT 389K Human Rights and Development**

Nicole Hassoun

WF 9:25 AM - 10:50 AM

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- **HMRT 389Z American Civics and Feminism**

Dara Silberstein

MW 11:00 AM - 12:25 PM

American Civics and Feminism From its founding the organizing structure of the United States has been its constitution. This document was written by white men who were property owners and therefore representative of the prevailing elite interests. Within this context democracy has historically given a disproportionate advantage to those who are most closely aligned with the interests of the “Founding Fathers.” Increasingly, this model of deliberative democracy has led participants to define their self interests as universal rather than subsume those interests for the sake of greater good of all community members. This class will examine the basics of the civic structure in the United States and explore how feminist theories and praxis might reimagine a more representative democracy.

- **HMRT 395 Internship**

Instructor Approval Required

- **HMRT 396 Collaborative Research in Human Rights**

Instructor Approval Required

- **HMRT 404 Migration Gender and Human Rights**

Jesmin Rubayat

Tuesday 5:50 PM - 8:50 PM

In this course, we examine the transnational dynamics of migration through the twin prism of gender and human rights. We first spend some time on contexts of war and economic upheaval as part of unequal North-South relations. Violence and impoverishment impact women and men differently and therefore impel multiple and distinct migratory processes. We interrogate these processes as always-and-already gendered, addressing the experiences of men and women both in the countries of origin and in the receiving countries, social formations that continue to be shaped by patriarchal practices. We ask the following questions: How do migratory patterns emerge out of gendered power relations within and outside of households? How does migration reshape these power relations? How do gendered migratory patterns relate to dynamics of racialization and class? We sharpen these questions by probing the differential human rights situation of men and women whose lives are touched by migration, both in the countries of origin and in the receiving countries.

- **HMRT 485B Rhetoric Models for Social Change**

Robert Berger

TR 2:50 PM - 4:15 PM

This course will focus on the discourse and rhetoric of non-violence as a tool for social change. Recent rhetorical models for social and political speech have increasingly taken on the form of extreme calls to violence upon the Other and the destruction of communities. Despite this, many of the most successful social reforms have made significant progress toward their goals utilizing a non-violent philosophy and rhetoric. In this class we examine texts related to the Women’s Rights movement in the United States, the

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anti-apartheid movement in South Africa, as well as the ongoing peaceful protest “Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women”. Students will be expected to write research-based midterm and final papers and present material relevant to the class at the end of the semester in a short oral presentation. Freshman restricted.

- **HMRT 485G Immigration and American Society**

Wendie Choudary

TR 10:05 AM - 11:30 AM

Gen. Eds: C - Composition; N - Social Science

The course focuses on the 1990s to the present: from the origins of the “Global War on Terror” to the New Cold War, drawing comparisons and links to World War Two and the [First] Cold War. Geographies to be covered include mainly but not exclusively the Middle East and Central Asia, and above all Eastern Europe—the Russia-Ukraine conflict, especially—, together with China. Emphasis is on geopolitical sites where significant military confrontations exist, countless atrocities continue to take place, and whose globalization and corporate earnings (present, impending, and potential) threaten world peace; inquiring into why such atrocities, military conflicts, profiteering, and the globalization of war need to be studied within the context of international humanitarian law and especially in relation to ongoing socioeconomic inequalities and political imbalances (locally and worldwide).

- **HMRT 486J Research on Human Rights and Labor**

David Cingranelli

MW 9:40 AM - 11:05 AM

Gen. Eds: N - Social Science; O - Oral Communication

Students assist the instructor in conducting scientific research on the causes and consequences of government respect for internationally recognized labor rights such as the right to form trade unions and the right to a minimum wage. They will: learn which labor rights are protected under international law; conduct a content analysis of information contained in the most recent U.S. State Department’s annual reports on every country’s labor laws and actual labor practices; use the information they collect to develop their own scientific/quantitative research projects; write reports of their research; and orally present the results of their research. No prerequisites, but a prior 300-level course on human rights in any academic department would be helpful.

- **HMRT 495 Internship**

Instructor Approval Required

- **HMRT 497 Independent Study**

Instructor Approval Required