

2024 Human Rights Summer Courses

Session 1: May 28-July 1 | Session 2: July 08-August 09

HMRT 389F (CRN 15990) *K-Pop and Human Rights*

Session 2 - Online Asynchronous

Gen Eds: C – Composition, H – Humanities

[Ryan Stears](#)

This course focuses on human rights in the K-pop industry, and its relationship to South Korea's neoliberal economic policies, particularly after the 1997 Asian financial crisis. Through the first K-pop idol group H.O.T. in 1996 and the first girl group S.E.S. in 1997, to second generation groups such as BIGBANG and Girls' Generation and, finally, more recent groups, such as EXO, BTS, Red Velvet, Twice, BLACKPINK, Stray Kids, LOONA, SuperM, and others, this course aims to examine human rights within both K-pop and South Korea as a whole, from "slave contracts" that exploit K-pop idols and trainees, to discrimination against women, foreigners, the LGBTQ+ community, and racial and ethnic minorities. How has the East Asian model of capitalism, the 1997 Asian financial crisis, and subsequent neoliberal policies of South Korea, all of which derived from Western influence, affected South Korean culture and K-pop since the Korean Wave began in the 1990s?

HMRT 389Z (CRN 16239) *Pandemic, Police & Human Rights*

Session 1 - Online Asynchronous

Gen Eds: C - Composition, G - Global Interdependencies, H - Humanities

[Kaushik Tekur Venkata](#)

In this course, we'll examine how different art forms – novels, movies, photographs, and tv shows – have dealt with the question of police power during different pandemics in history. We'll study how 'safety' and 'security' continue to be invoked during pandemics as arguments for governments' disregard for human rights. The course will pay attention to a wide range of creative works starting from *A Journal of the Plague Year* (1722), to *Yesterday* (2004), Reuters team's Pulitzer-winning photographs of India during the Covid-19 pandemic (2022), *The Last of Us* (2023) and more. We'll examine how police power justifies the temporary dismissal of human rights and how people have made sense of this violence and critiqued it through different art forms. From these medical contexts, we will then zoom out to ask if police power and human rights can ever co-exist and if they could, under what conditions?

HMRT 395 (CRN 15243)

Internship

Instructor permission required, variable credit

Variable sessions available

[Alexandra Moore](#)

HMRT 396 (CRN 15993) 01

Collaborative Research in Human Rights - Independent Study

Instructor permission required, variable credit

Variable sessions available

[Alexandra Moore](#)

HMRT 396 (CRN 16240) 02

Collaborative Research in Human Rights - Independent Study

Instructor permission required, variable credit

Variable sessions available

[David Cingranelli](#)

HMRT 495 (CRN 15244)

Internship

Instructor permission required, variable credit

[Alexandra Moore](#)

HMRT 497 (CRN 15245)

Independent Study

Instructor permission required, variable credit

[Alexandra Moore](#)