University of Iowa Center for Human Rights

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Undergraduate certificate: human rights
Web site: http://uichr.org

Human rights concern the inherent dignity of all human beings and the promotion and protection of that dignity regardless of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, religion, culture, nationality, birth, or other status. The Certificate in Human Rights broadens students' understanding of human rights issues and helps them learn how to use an interdisciplinary approach to identify solutions.

Course work for the certificate is drawn from units across the University of Iowa. It prepares students to examine societal problems critically and to design specific solutions to human rights dilemmas in a wide range of areas, such as civil governance, the situations of women and racial and sexual minorities, child welfare, socioeconomic development and well-being, hunger and poverty, education, health, immigration, ecological sustainability, and mass violence.

The Certificate in Human Rights is administered and awarded by the College of Law.

Undergraduate Program of Study
• Certificate in Human Rights

Certificate

The Certificate in Human Rights requires 18 s.h. of credit. The certificate program is open to current University of Iowa undergraduate students and to all individuals who hold a bachelor's degree and are not enrolled in a graduate or professional degree program. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in work for the certificate. They may count a maximum of 6 s.h. of transfer credit toward the certificate with approval from the certificate program's faculty advisory group.

Individuals must declare their intent to earn the certificate. They must consult with the Certificate in Human Rights advisor to complete a plan of study; see the Certificate in Human Rights web site for details.

The Certificate in Human Rights requires the following course work.

Philosophical foundations and contemporary issues in human rights—both of these (6 s.h.):
HRTS:2115/IS:2115 Introduction to Human Rights 3 s.h.
PHIL:3430 Philosophy of Human Rights 3 s.h.

Human rights in practice—all of these (total of 12 s.h.):
HRTS:3905/IS:3905 Topics in Human Rights 3 s.h.
HRTS:3910/IS:3910 Human Rights Advocacy 3 s.h.
HRTS:3920 Seminar in Human Rights Praxis: Supervised Internship 3 s.h.

Contact the certificate program advisor to learn about additional University of Iowa courses that relate to human rights. Individual students who would like to make substitutions for required courses must meet with the certificate program advisor; then they must submit a petition form to the program's faculty advisory group.

Courses

HRTS:2115 Introduction to Human Rights 3 s.h.
Analysis and evaluation of the international human rights program; relationship between human rights and international law. Same as IS:2115.

HRTS:3895 Human Rights and Community Development 3 s.h.
Exploration of connections and tensions between human rights as defined by member states of the United Nations; meaning and practice of community development, especially but not exclusively, in the United States; focus on critical thinking, in-depth discussion of readings, group work, and individual writing.

HRTS:3900 Child Labor and International Human Rights 3 s.h.
Complexity of child labor in global, regional, national, and local contexts; international human rights system, current programs and strategies for reducing or eliminating abusive child labor. Same as IS:3900.

HRTS:3905 Topics in Human Rights 1-3 s.h.
Examination of emerging human rights issues from an interdisciplinary and international perspective. Same as IS:3905.

Beginning of modern human rights era in 1948 and newly formed United Nations as one of the few institutions acting to protect human rights; present day aspiring advocates confronted by bewildering array of institutions to which they might bring human rights concerns; human rights enforcement mechanisms from an advocate's point of view; shortcomings of human rights enforcement and how it can be made better; broad definition of advocacy; legal and nonlegal conceptions of enforcement.
HRTS:3910 Human Rights Advocacy 3 s.h.
Theoretical foundations and critical issues for international human rights advocacy and international humanitarian movements. Same as IS:3910.

HRTS:3915 Human Rights and the Arts 3 s.h.
Ways in which violations of and struggle for human rights have affected and been affected by literary, musical, visual, architectural, and theatrical/dramatic arts in various countries past and present; art considered as expression, as market of identity, and as historical document.

Supervised internship in human rights praxis; focus on field-based advocacy and human rights frameworks.

HRTS:4283 U.S. Women's History as the History of Human Rights 3-4 s.h.
History of human rights in the United States traced through the perspective of women; aspects of women's experience (social, political, intellectual) related to fundamental human rights—right to a nationality, right to life, liberty and personal security, right to freedom of movement, right to take part in the government of their country, right to own property; these and other rights specified by the United Nations in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948; different history of men and women enjoying these rights; how human rights have been constructed and experienced in the United States from the era of colonial settlement to present. Same as HIST:4283, AMST:4283, GWSS:4283.