

Human Rights

Students with an interest in human rights may do a Major (36 credit hours) in this area provided they complete a second Major in any other subject area at St. Thomas. Students may also do a Minor in Human Rights or an interdisciplinary honours.

The requirements for the Major are 36 credit hours in Human Rights, including the following 21 credit hours:

HMRT 1006	Introduction to Human Rights (This course is the required prerequisite for all upper-level courses in the Human Rights Program.)
HMRT 3033	Philosophy of Human Rights
HMRT 3113	The Charter
HMRT 3123	International Human Rights
HMRT 3133	Human Rights and Non-Governmental Organizations
HMRT 4013	Capstone Seminar

In addition, students must complete a minimum of 15 credit hours in elective courses from within three of the four fields of human rights - Social Issues, Law, Philosophical Foundations, Institutions and Application.

HMRT-2243. Introduction to Perspectives on the Environment (ENVS 2023)

This course explores how society has attempted to understand the social origins of environmental degradation and the changes necessary in society to end human disruption of the environment. This involves a review of the different perspectives within the environmental movement, and of the attempts by the social sciences and the humanities to understand the social origins of environmental degradation. Prerequisite: ENVS 1013, or permission of the instructor.

HMRT-2253. Introduction to Moral Philosophy (PHIL 2213)

An examination, through readings, lectures, and discussion, of some important attempts to ground ethical judgments. Themes: relativism, egoism, values, and sentiment; values and consequences; the determination of duty.

HMRT-2263. Contemporary Moral Philosophy (PHIL 2233)

An investigation, through readings, lectures, and discussion, of contemporary issues and authors in moral philosophy. Topics include: Nietzsche and the transvaluation of values, existentialist ethics, emotivism, Marxism and ethics, the natural law debate, situation ethics, the logic and meaning of ethical discourse. Prerequisite: PHIL 2213, or permission of the instructor.

HMRT-2273. Current Issues in Ethics (PHIL 2243)

A discussion, through lectures and student presentations, of ethical theory through its application in the consideration of such contemporary issues as: pornography and censorship, euthanasia, abortion, punishment, justice and welfare, sexual and racial discrimination. Prerequisite: Phil 2213, or permission of the instructor.

HMRT-2283. Science, Technology, and War (STS 2403)

This course explores the development of modern techniques, technologies, and social systems for the purposes of making war. It also explores how wars change societies, technologically, socially, and structurally. Note: Students who have taken STS-1403 will not receive credit for STS-2403.

HMRT-3013. Codes and Commissions

This course will focus on domestic human rights codes and human rights commissions. Special attention will be given to the New Brunswick Human Rights Code and the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission.

HMRT-3033. Philosophy of Human Rights

This course will introduce students to philosophical questions concerning the foundations of human rights. What are human rights based on? What makes something a human right? Are human rights universally and permanently valid or is the notion of human rights merely a construct of modern Western culture? The course will familiarize students with alternative theoretical answers to these and other related questions.

HMRT-3063. Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

This course will examine the historical development of humanitarian law and the relationship with human rights. It will study the principle actors in the administration of humanitarian law and human rights. Students will explore the protection of victims and their fundamental rights in emergency situations, the rights and duties of aid organizations and their personnel, the changing role of humanitarian law in the light of terrorism, and international crime. The course will review the enforcement of rights and duties as well as the

may be service learning. Prerequisites: ENVS 1013 and ENVS 2023, or permission of the instructor.

HMRT-3243. Human Rights in International Relations and Foreign Policy (POLS 3503)

This course considers human rights in international relations. It focuses on how the emerging human rights regime is affecting the practice of traditional state sovereignty. Special attention will be paid to the political and philosophical arguments around such issues as universal human rights versus cultural relativism, and the problems associated with humanitarian intervention.

HMRT-3253. Model United Nations (POLS 3613)

This course will prepare students for participation in a Model United Nations, either Canadian or American sponsored. In a model UN simulation, students represent an assigned country's foreign policy on assigned issues on the UN agenda. The course will begin with an examination of the UN and its procedures. Subsequent topics will include researching the assigned UN issues and the assigned country's policy on them; preparation of working papers and motions, and strategies for effective conference participation. Fund raising for the trip required: half credit course, but meets first and second terms; limited enrolment.

HMRT-3263. Sex, Science & Gender (STS 3303)

This course examines how scientific research, in the late 19th and 20th centuries, has shaped common conceptions of sex behaviour and how this scientific knowledge has also been shaped by cultural conceptions of gender roles and "normal" behaviour.

HMRT-3273. Feminism and Techno-Science (STS 3503)

Examines a variety of feminist perspectives on science and technology which suggest that scientific authority (particularly in the biological and life sciences) rationalizes and normalizes gender stereotypes and inequalities, and also marginalizes women from its institutions. The content and positions of various perspectives (as well as counter-arguments) are studied for their political, philosophical, and epistemic assumptions. Prerequisite: at least 9 credit hours in STS or permission of the instructor.

HMRT-3283. Science, Religion, and Galileo's Trial (STS 3063)

Examines the complex interactions between Western science and the Judeo-Christian religious tradition in the ancient, medieval, and early modern periods culminating with a close study of Galileo's trial by the Inquisition in 1632 to reveal how variable and complex interactions between science and religion have been characterized at different times by conflict, cooperation, separation, understanding, misunderstanding, dialogue, and alienation.

from a panel of judges. Students focus on Supreme Court precedent surrounding two different issues each year. Students are required to have permission of instructor to register for the course. No other prerequisites are required.

HMRT-3506. Human Rights in International Relations and Foreign Policy

This course considers human rights in international relations and foreign policy from the point of view of constraints on sovereignty. With background from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries up to WWII, it concentrates on the promotion and protection of human rights in the post-war period. Topics covered include: the UN system of human rights and the international and domestic politics of human rights as evidenced in foreign policy, Canadian in particular.

HMRT-3513. Moot Court

Moot court cultivates advanced analytical skills while developing leadership qualities in students with an interest in human rights. Students learn how to develop and deliver oral legal arguments by competing in a Supreme Court simulation where they answer questions from a panel of judges. Students focus on Supreme Court precedent surrounding two different issues each year. Students are required to have permission of instructor to register for the course. No other prerequisites are required.

HMRT-3523. Moot Court

Moot court cultivates advanced analytical skills while developing leadership qualities in students with an interest in human rights. Students learn how to develop and deliver oral legal arguments by competing in a Supreme Court simulation where they answer questions from a panel of judges. Students focus on Supreme Court precedent surrounding two different issues each year. Students are required to have permission of instructor to register for the course. No other prerequisites are required.

HMRT-3803. Child and Youth Rights

This interdisciplinary course focuses on the implementation of articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, specifically: provision rights (e.g., health care, education), protection rights (e.g., from abuse, neglect, exploitation), and participation rights (e.g., in families, schools), with a particular emphasis on the implementation of these articles in Canada.

HMRT-4003. Research Seminar

Students in this course will do a research project in human rights under the supervision of the instructor. The course will begin with a general introduction to the aims and methods of research projects. Students will be expected to present periodic reports on the status of their work. The course is normally reserved for students in their final year of the human rights Major.

HMRT-4013. Capstone Seminar

This course will consist of an in-depth investigation of one or more human rights problems. The specific topic will change from year to year. Students will be expected to examine the issue(s) in light of their knowledge of the basic instruments, institutions, and ideas relevant to human rights as well as their understanding of the fundamental questions of value that surround contemporary social issues. The course is normally reserved for students in their final year of the human rights Major.

HMRT-4023. Independent Study

Students may undertake studies under the direction of a member or members of the program with the permission of the Director. The course is limited to students with a proven academic record.

HMRT-4033. Special Topics in Human Rights: International Human Rights Law

This course will be part of a study abroad program at the China University of Politics and Law (CUPL). Students will participate in a two week long Summer Program in Human Rights. Lecturers are drawn from the international human rights community and topics and lectures vary year to year, with an emphasis on international human rights. Students who successfully complete this course may count it as three credit hours towards the area of "Institutions and Applications" under the Human Rights Program.

HMRT-4043. Special Topics in Human Rights

The content of this course changes from year to year reflecting the strengths of faculty or the scholar occupying the Chair in Canadian Citizenship and Human Rights.

HMRT-4053. Human Rights Leadership

This course will provide students with exposure to the practice of human rights, encouraging them to reflect on the relationship between that experience and their formal human rights studies. Students must obtain approval from the Director of the Human Rights Programme for their participation in this course.

HMRT-4923. Collective Memory, Culture and Texts in Argentina (SPAN)

This course will explore the connections between collective memory, history and culture in Argentina. It explores the cultural production of the post-dictatorship Process of National Reorganization (1976-1983) through essays, fiction, and film. These texts and films reconstruct not only history but also those identities denied by official history. We will define concepts such as official history, Other History, and collective memory in order to understand the discursive fields from which history and memory are reconstructed.

HMRT-5503. Teaching for and About Human Rights

This course is offered during the human rights summer institute designed for pre-service teachers, practicing teachers, and professionals in related fields. The course introduces participants to the various rights, instruments, and issues relevant to the classroom and provides opportunities for teachers and others to increase their knowledge base in the human rights field.