

# 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.

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 and is not open to first-year students.)
HMRT 3013	Codes and Commissions
HMRT 3033/PHIL 3313	Philosophy of Human Rights
HMRT 3113	The Charter
HMRT 3123	International Human Rights
HMRT 4003	Research Seminar
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.

## *a) Social Issues*

ANTH 2533	Women in Cross Cultural Perspective
CRIM 3803	Child and Youth Rights
ECON 2223	Political Economy of Women
ECON 2303	Women in the Third World
ENGL 3433	World Literature: West Indies and Africa
ENGL 3443	World Literature: India
HIST 3873	Immigrants in Canada 1870 - Present
RELG 3833	Human Rights and the Church
SOCI 2416	Inequality in Society
SOCI 2443	Race and Ethnic Relations
SOCI 2613	Sociology of Gender
SOCI 3043	Qualitative Research Methods (HMRT, RELG, SOCI)
SOCI 3413	Employment Equity Policy and Gender Inequality at Work
SPAN 4923	Collective Memory, Culture and Texts in Argentina
STS 2403	Science, Technology, and War
STS 3303	Sex, Science, and Gender
STS 3503	Feminism and Technoscience

## *b) Law*

CRIM 2123	Criminal Law
CRIM 3143	Charter Rights and Criminal Justice

HMRT3063	Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
NATI 3903	Native People and the Law I
NATI 3913	Native People and the Law II
NATI 3923	Aboriginal Rights: The Land Question
POLS 3133	The Charter of Rights and Freedom
POLS 3503	Human Rights, International Relations and Foreign Policy
SOCI 3313	Sociology of Law
SOCI 3323	Sociology of Women and Law

*c) Philosophical Foundations*

ENVS 2023	Introduction to Perspectives on the Environment
GRID 2006	Quest for the Good Life
GRID 2206	Human Nature and Technology
GRID 3306	Justice
GRID 3506	Freedom
PHIL 2213	Introduction to Moral Philosophy
PHIL 2233	Contemporary Moral Philosophy
PHIL 2243	Current Issues in Ethics
POLS 2806	Western Tradition of Political Philosophy

*d) Institutions and Application*

ECON 2203	Community Economic Development
ENVS 3013	Environmental Policy
ENVS 3023	Environmental Praxis
HMRT 3133	Human Rights and Non-governmental Organizations
HMRT 4033	Special Topics in Human Rights
HMRT 4043	Special Topics in Human Rights
POLS 1103	Canadian Government
POLS 1603	Global Politics
POLS 3613	Model United Nations
STS 3063	Science, Religion, and Galileo's Trial

Students should consult with the Director of the Human Rights Program to ensure that their program meets all requirements.

**HMRT-1006. Introduction to Human Rights**

This course will introduce students to the study of human rights by investigating the question what is a human right? The course will proceed primarily through a number of examples and case studies. Students will also be given an overview of the basic instruments, institutions, and ideas relevant to human rights.

**HMRT-1203. Global Politics (POLS 1603)**

This course provides an introduction to the concepts of nation and state, sovereignty, forms of government, and political conflict. It does so through consideration of issues in world politics, such as human rights and social justice, ecological imbalance, economic inequalities, war, global governmental institutions and organizations.

**HMRT-2203. Community Economic Development (ECON)**

A course which explores the theory and practice of community economic development. It will include the examination of case studies of successful community economic development. The focus will be on the appropriateness and applicability of the model to the Maritimes.

**HMRT-2206. The Quest for the Good Life (GRID 2006)**

This course is designed to approach the perennial issue of The Quest for the Good Life through the thoughtful reading of some of the greatest works in a variety of disciplines. The texts may include ancient and modern, all selected because they speak to and illuminate this theme. Texts will vary from year to year but will include works such as Aristotle's *Ethics*, the *Bible*, Machiavelli's *Prince*, and Camus' *The Plague*.

**HMRT-2216. Human Nature and Technology (GRID 2206)**

This course will study the way in which diverse thinkers have considered the question of human nature. This question will be sharpened with a consideration of the way in which human beings considered as natural beings use and are affected by technology. Texts will vary from year to year, but may include works such as: Aeschylus' *Prometheus Bound*, Bacon's *New Atlantis*, Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, Grant's *Technology and Empire*, Miller's *A Canticle for Leibowitz*, Heidegger's *The Question Concerning Technology*, Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Gaskell's *North and South*, Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*, and Sterling's *Holy Fire*.

**HMRT-2223. Political Economy of Women (ECON)**

This is a seminar course examining, in depth, selected topics on the political economy of women. Potential topics include women as paid workers, domestic labour, and women and poverty.

**HMRT-2233. Women in the Third World (ECON 2303)**

This course will critically examine the role of women in the Third World. It will concentrate largely on the changes in these roles and their correspondence with the transition from traditional to new forms of economic organization, production, and power.

**HMRT-2236. The Western Tradition of Political Philosophy (POLS 2806)**

This course will introduce students to the following seminal texts in the Western political tradition. Texts may include: Plato's *Apology*, Plato's *Republic*, Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, Aristotle's *Politics*, *Bible*, St. Augustine's *City of God*, Aquinas' *Treatise on Law*, Machiavelli's *The Prince*, Hobbes' *Leviathan*, Locke's *Second Treatise on Government*, Rousseau's *Discourses*, Marx's 1844 *Manuscripts*, *Communist Manifesto*, and Nietzsche's *The Genealogy of Morals*. Students who took either POLS 2803 or 2813 cannot receive credit for 2806.

**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 mechanisms available under general international law, human rights law, and international humanitarian law.

### **HMRT-3113. The Charter**

This course will examine the impact of the Charter on rights and freedoms in Canada. After an introductory discussion of the Bill of Rights and the development of the Charter, instruction will focus on a large number of Supreme Court decisions interpreting the meaning of the Charter's provisions.

### **HMRT-3123. International Human Rights**

This course explicates the principal international and regional systems in place for the

protection and promotion of human rights, including the Inter-American, European, African, and United Nations systems. Students will study the most important human rights instruments, such as the International Bill of Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights, and the American Convention on Human Rights.

### **HMRT-3133. Human Rights and Non-governmental Organizations**

This course will identify and explore the operations of the main non-governmental organizations at the international and domestic levels in the field of human rights. Theoretical consideration shall be given to the role of these organizations in the practice of freedom. The practical work of various human rights groups will be considered. Students will be expected to participate in the work of a given human rights group during the course.

### **HMRT-3206. Justice (GRID 3306)**

This course will explore the nature of human community and the question of justice. Themes to be addressed will include an individual's responsibility to others, the role of community in promoting human happiness, the manner in which we are both limited and fulfilled by justice, and the relationship of justice and law. Texts will vary from year to year, but may include works such as: Plato's *Republic*, Aquinas' *Summa Theologica*, Sayers' *Gaudy Night*, Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, Cary's *Tragedy of Mariam*, Marx's *The German Ideology*, and King's *Letter from Birmingham Jail*. Prerequisites: GRID 2006, or permission of the instructors.

### **HMRT-3213. Environmental Policy (ENVS 3013)**

Building upon familiarity with the major perspectives within the environmental movement, the course will examine various approaches to resolving environmental problems such as: bioregionalism, sustainable growth, deep ecology, rightsizing economic activity, etc. Students will explore how alternate visions of the future would translate into public policy. Prerequisites: ENVS 1013 and ENVS 2023, or permission of the instructor.

### **HMRT-3216. Freedom (GRID 3506)**

This course will examine the nature of freedom in the context of human life and community. Questions to be addressed will include: To what extent are human beings free by nature? Should political communities promote freedom? What might be appropriate limitations on our freedom? Texts may include Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*, Plato's *Crito*, Aquinas' *On Free Will*, Shakespeare's *Coriolanus* and Hegel's *The Philosophy of Right*. Prerequisite: GRID 2006.

### **HMRT-3223. Environmental Praxis (ENVS 3023)**

This course explores how alternative visions of the future translate into political action at the international, national, provincial, community, and personal levels. This involves an analysis of alternative theories of the nature of social change. A component of this course may be service learning. Prerequisites: ENVS 1013 and ENVS 2023, or permission of the instructor.

### **HMRT-3233. The Canadian Constitution: The Charter of Rights and Freedoms (POLS 3133)**

This course will focus on the impact our constitution has had on civil liberties in Canada. The course will proceed primarily by means of class discussion of leading constitutional decisions and student presentations.

### **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. Prerequisite: STS 2243 or permission of the instructor.

**HMRT-3433. World Literature in English: West Indies and Africa (ENGL)**

An introduction to the range of literary expressions of writers from the non-Western cultures of the West Indies and Africa. The major genre studied is the novel, though poetry and essays are also examined. The focus of the course is to study the concerns of the colonized, those who were swept up by British expansion in the 18th and 19th centuries. (Categories: National or Regional, Cultural Studies).

**HMRT-3443. World Literature in English: India (ENGL)**

An introduction to the range of literary expressions of writers from the Indian Subcontinent. The two major genres studied are the novel and short fiction, though poetry and essays are also examined. The focus of the course is to study the concerns of the colonized, those who were swept up by British expansion in the 18th and 19th centuries. (Categories: National or Regional, Cultural Studies).

**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-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. Prerequisites: CRIM 2223 and HMRT 2003.

### **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-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.