

HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

Majors:

- Bachelor of Arts, Human Rights Studies (p. 1)

Minors:

- Human Rights Studies (p. 5)

With the Human Rights Studies (HRS) Major and Minor, students receive interdisciplinary instruction in contemporary understandings of justice and equality through legal, historical, philosophical, political, and religious perspectives. Human Rights Studies is a dynamic and evolving field and through our program students are equipped with the practical knowledge and skills needed to respond to the social, economic, technological and political threats to human dignity in the U.S. and abroad.

HRS Major

- A major in human rights studies requires 45 to 57 semester hours of courses in the humanities and the social sciences.
- Given the interdisciplinary nature of this degree program, many students are able to double major.
- HRS is one of the few degree programs that includes a 3-credit hour experiential learning requirement.
- As an HRS Major students have flexibility in choosing three 3-credit hour electives courses from different disciplines to best support individual passions and career goals.

HRS Minor

- A minor in human rights studies consists of 18 semester hours. Six of those credit hours include two elective courses that from different disciplines to best support individual passions and career goals.

FACULTY LISTING

Bachelor of Arts, Human Rights Studies (HRS) minimum 120 hours

The Bachelor of Arts in Human Rights Studies is an integrated pre-professional degree firmly grounded in the traditional liberal arts. Students, faculty, and staff participating in the program enter into it guided by their fundamental commitment to respect and promote the dignity of each human person. The degree is intended to produce intellectually adept students who are capable of performing rigorous research and conducting high quality analysis of critical questions in the area of human rights studies. It is equally intended to produce thoughtful and transformational servant-leaders who will apply the knowledge and skills obtained in the program to contemporary human rights issues and situations both domestically and internationally. Through the integration of liberal and pre-professional education, the interdisciplinary program prepares distinctive graduates who intend to pursue advanced study and training in the field of human rights, or careers in human rights advocacy and humanitarian assistance. Those graduates will possess the values, knowledge and skills necessary for effective public service in:

- Government agencies
- Non-governmental organizations
- International aid agencies
- Non-profit groups in human rights or humanitarian assistance

Courses taken for the major may also count toward completion of the Common Academic Program and the Liberal Studies Curriculum.

The Common Academic Program (CAP) is an innovative curriculum that is the foundation of a University of Dayton education. It is a learning experience that is shared in common among all undergraduate students, regardless of their major. Some CAP requirements must be fulfilled by courses taken at UD. Some major requirements must also be fulfilled by courses taken at UD. Students should consult with their advisor regarding applicability of transfer credit to fulfill CAP and major program requirements.

Common Academic Program (CAP) ¹

First-Year Humanities Commons ²	6 cr. hrs.
HUM 101 Chaminade Seminar: Reading and Responding to the Signs of the Times	
HUM 102 Marie Thérèse Seminar: Human Dignity and the Common Good	
Second-Year Writing Seminar	3 cr. hrs.
Oral Communication	3 cr. hrs.
Mathematics	3 cr. hrs.
Social Science	3 cr. hrs.
Arts	3 cr. hrs.
Natural Science ³	4 cr. hrs.
Crossing Boundaries	9 cr. hrs.
Faith Traditions (3 cr. hrs.)	
Practical Ethical Action (3 cr. hrs.)	
Interdisciplinary Investigations (3 cr. hrs.) ⁴	
Advanced Study	9 cr. hrs.
Religious Studies (3 cr. hrs.)	
Philosophical Studies (3 cr. hrs.)	
Historical Studies (3 cr. hrs.)	
Diversity and Social Justice ⁵	3 cr. hrs.
Major Capstone ⁶	0-6 cr. hrs.

Experiential Learning ⁷

0-3
cr.
hrs.

- ¹ The credit hours listed reflect what is needed to complete each CAP component. However, they should not be viewed as a cumulative addition to a student's degree requirements because many CAP courses are designed to satisfy more than one CAP component (e.g., Crossing Boundaries and Advanced Studies) and may also satisfy requirements in the student's major.
- ² May be completed with ASI 110 through the Core Program.
- ³ Must include a lecture course and an accompanying lab.
- ⁴ New Crossing Boundaries category effective with the 2025-26 Catalog, which incorporates all courses previously approved in the Crossing Boundaries Inquiry or Integrative categories. This new category does not include any restriction that students must take the course outside of their unit or division.
- ⁵ May not double count with First-Year Humanities Commons, Second-Year Writing, Oral Communication, Social Science, or Natural Science CAP components, but may double count with courses taken to satisfy other CAP components and/or courses taken in the student's major.
- ⁶ The course or experience is designed by faculty in each major; it may, or may not, be assigned credit hours.
- ⁷ The course or experience will have variable credit, depending on the intensity and duration of the experience, or where it is housed in existing curricular and co-curricular spaces.

A liberal studies degree from the University of Dayton is grounded in the institution's Catholic and Marianist tradition, which emphasizes holistic education, community, service, and social justice. The program encourages students to explore a wide range of subjects, integrating knowledge from the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and fine arts. Overall, a liberal studies degree from the University of Dayton not only provides a comprehensive educational experience but also instills values that encourage students to contribute positively to society.

The Bachelor of Arts degree requires a minimum of 120 credit hours. All BA students will complete the Liberal Studies Curriculum as part of their degree plan. This Curriculum provides students with a breadth of study and experiences in the humanities, the creative and performing arts, the social sciences, and the natural sciences. It provides a distinct complement to the specialized study in a major and presupposes, builds upon and enhances the University's Common Academic Program (CAP). No credits may double-count toward CAP or the first major and also the Liberal Studies Curriculum requirements, including the language context course options.

Liberal Studies Curriculum

Language Proficiency ¹	0-9
Breadth and Depth Requirements ²	24
Breadth: Earn 3 credits in each of the five categories:	
Arts	
Humanities	
Social Sciences	
Natural Sciences and Mathematics	
CAS Interdisciplinary Programs (options include courses with HRS, WGS, MST, RCE, SEE, DST, and INS prefixes)	

Depth: Take 9 additional credits of CAS courses from any combination of breadth categories	
Total Hours	24-33

- ¹ Students demonstrate basic practical communication in a language other than English.
- ² No more than 12 of the 24 credit hours may come from 100- or 200-level courses. None of the 24 credit hours may also count toward CAP or the first major. If students take a 3-credit context course toward language proficiency, those credits may count here.

Major Requirements ²

HRS Core Curriculum		
HRS 200	Introduction to Human Rights	3
HRS 497	Capstone Seminar in Human Rights Studies	3
POL 333	Politics of Human Rights	3
Choose one course from the following:		3
SOC 371	Sociology of Human Rights	
SOC 326	Law & Society	
ANT 325	Anthropology of Human Rights	
Choose one course from the following:		3
PHL 371	Philosophy & Human Rights	
REL 363	Faith & Justice	
REL 261	Faith Traditions: Human Rights	
Choose one course from the following:		
ENG 346	Literature & Human Rights	
HST 390	History of Human Rights	
Applied Skills (Writing, Communication, & Organization Management)-Choose one course from the following:		3
CMM 316	Intercultural Communication	
CMM 321	Small Group Communication	
CMM 332	Publication Design	
CMM 341	Audio Production	
CMM 342	Fundamentals of Video Production	
CMM 344	Multimedia Design & Production I	
CMM 352	Persuasion	
CMM 356	Argumentation and Advocacy	
CMM 360	Principles of Public Relations	
CMM 411	Health Communication	
CMM 420	Communication & Conflict Management	
CMM 330	Media Writing	
CMM 333	Free Lance Writing	
CMM 343	Scriptwriting for Media Production Platforms	
ENG 369	Writing in Organizations	
ENG 370	Report & Proposal Writing	
ENG 375	Writing for the Web	
ENG 392	Writing for Grants and Non-Profits	
MPA 565	Grantwriting	
PLW 350	Introduction to Legal Research, Writing & Analysis	
ACC 200	Introduction to Accounting	
ACC 207	Introduction to Financial Accounting	
BIZ 200	Business Cases and Communications for Non-Business Majors	
FIN 200	Finance for the Common Good	

MKT 300	Survey of Marketing	
POL 305	Introduction to Public Administration	
POL 361	Leadership in Nongovernmental Organizations	
POL 426	Leadership in Building Communities	
MPA 562	Strategic Planning for Nonprofit & Community Organizations	
MPA 563	NGO Management & Development	
MPA 569	Nonprofit Financial Management	
Research Methods - Choose one course from the following:		3
SOC 208	Social Research Design	
POL 207	Political Science Research Methods	
PSY 217	Research Methods	
HST 301	Historiography	
RCE 303	Latinx and Latin American Studies Theories and Methods	
RCE 305	Indigenous Studies Theories and Methods	
WGS 310	Feminist Theory and Methodology	
CMM 412	Research Methods in Communication	
SEE 435	System Modeling for Sustainability	
HRS/GIS 451	Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for Human Rights	
Experiential Learning - Choose one course from the following:		3
RCE 310	Standing Rock: Sovereignty and Indigenous Rights	
HRS 375	Moral Courage Project	
WGS 390	Service Learning in Women's & Gender Studies	
SWK 401	Community Field Experience	
HRS 498	Independent Study	
CMM 390	Independent Study	
HST 496	Independent Study	
PHL 492	Directed Research	
POL 431	Independent Study & Research	
POL 495	Internship	
SOC 409	Senior Project Capstone	
SOC 426	Leadership in Building Communities	
SOC 498	Independent Study	
HRS Electives - Choose 3 courses from 3 different disciplines:		9
CMM		
CMM 350	History and Analysis of Propaganda	
CMM 355	Rhetoric of Social Movements	
CMM 357	Religious Rhetoric	
CMM 385	Dialogue, Power, and Diversity	
DST		
DST 100	Foundations of Disability Studies	
ENG		
ENG 313	Social Justice & Dramatic Literature	
ENG 335	African American Literature	
ENG 336	Gender and Fiction	
ENG 338	Monsters, Women, Jews: In the Margins of Christendom	
ENG 339	American Indian Literature	
ENG 340	US Prison Literature and Culture	
ENG 341	Asian American Literature	
ENG 345	Colonial & Postcolonial Literature	

ENG 352	Appalachian Literature and Culture
ENG 360	US Latinx Literature
ENG 361	Jewish-American Experience in Literature and Film
ENG 366	Health Literacy and Social Justice
ENG 386	Theories of Language and Power
ENG 409	Images of Disability in Literature
SOC	
SOC 305	Theories of Crime & Justice
SOC 306	Culture and Power
SOC 309	Community Practice & Research
SOC 310	Perspectives on Education and Social Justice
SOC 320	Law, Harm & Injustice
SOC 321	Sociology of Extremism
SOC 323	Youth, Justice & Law
SOC 328	Racial & Ethnic Relations
SOC 329	Sex, Crime, and Law
SOC 339	Social Inequality
SOC 342	Social Movements
SOC 345	Sociology of Extremism
SOC 362	Bioessentialism and Constructions of Bodies
SOC 368	Immigration & Immigrants
SOC 372	The Sociology of Civil Rights
SOC 375	Feminist Social Change
SOC 384	Food Justice
ANT	
ANT 306	Culture & Power
ANT 315	Language & Culture
ANT 336	Topics in Medical Anthropology
ANT 340	Place, Culture, and Social Justice
ANT 368	Immigration & Immigrants
BIO	
BIO 310	Ecology
BIO 340	Culture, Biodiversity & Resources Management
BIO 362	Bioessentialism and Constructions of Bodies
BIO 395	Global Environmental Biology
BIO 409	Ecological Restoration
SWK	
SWK 303	Community Practice & Research
SWK 305	Social Services in the Health Field
SWK 307	Mental Health Services
SWK 310	Law & Human Services
SWK 335	Social Work & Environmental Justice
SWK 360	International Social Work
SWK 370	Advocacy Practice in Social Work
SWK 380	Health and Inequality
POL	
POL 300	Political Issues
POL 307	Policy, Administration, & Regulation
POL 308	Morality Policy
POL 309	Health Policy
POL 319	Twentieth-Century Political Thought
POL 321	Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia

POL 331	Nationalism & Ethnopolitics
POL 336	United Nations System: Theory and Practice
POL 340	Gender, Women's Rights and Global Politics
POL 355	Media and Democracy
POL 365	Disaster Policy & Administration
POL 391	The Politics of International Economic Relations
POL 392	Human Rights and Development in Africa
POL 406	International Law & Organization
POL 411	Constitutional Law
POL 426	Leadership in Building Communities
POL 450	Civil Liberties
POL 452	Political Violence
HST	
HST 280	Making of the Modern Middle East
HST 309	Dangerous Work and Disaster Capitalism
HST 312	Age of Democratic Revolutions
HST 329	Americans and the Middle East
HST 334	History of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict
HST 337	History of Africa - 19th Century to the Present
HST 339	Gandhi, Non Violence and Resistance around the World
HST 345	The European Holocaust
HST 350	LGBTQ History: Comparative European and USA
HST 351	American Gender & Women's History to 1870
HST 354	History of Women & Gender in the Middle East
HST 355	American Urban History
HST 356	History of Transnational Feminism
HST 360	U.S. Legal & Constitutional History I
HST 361	U.S. Legal & Constitutional History II
HST 371	History of Displaced Persons
HST 378	Global Immigration History
HST 380	Native American History
HST 392	History of Human Rights in Modern Latin America
HST 393	Capitalism and Crisis in History
HST 394	Animal History: A Global History of Human-Animal Relations
HST 395	Climate History: A Global History of the Human-Climate Interface
HST 396	History of South Africa: From Prehistory to Present
HST 397	Black Women in America
HST 398	African American History before 1877
HST 399	African American History Since 1877
REL	
REL 214	Magic, Medicine, or Miracles: Disability in the Ancient World, the Bible, and Today
REL 263	Hst Cath Soc Action
REL 269	Faith Traditions and Care for the Earth
REL 304	Hinduism
REL 305	Eastern Orthodoxy
REL 306	Buddhism
REL 307	Topics in Judaism
REL 308	Islam
REL 309	Afro-Latin Religions

REL 322	Latino/Latina Religious Experiences
REL 357	Peacebuilding
REL 358	Liberation Theologies
REL 360	Christian Ethics
REL 366	The Holocaust: Theological & Religious Responses
REL 464	Liberation Theology
PHL	
PHL 310	Social Philosophy
PHL 314	Philosophy of Law
PHL 317	Ethics of War
PHL 327	Philosophy of Peace
PHL 328	Philosophy of Punishment
PHL 329	Genocide, Mass Atrocity and Transitional Justice
PHL 334	Philosophy & Ecology
PHL 341	Hip Hop and Philosophy
PHL 348	Comparative East-West Philosophy
PHL 351	Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Philosophy
PHL 357	Radical Philosophy
PHL 358	Marxist Philosophy
PHL 363	African Philosophy
PHL 364	Race, Gender and Philosophy
PHL 366	Afro-Caribbean Philosophy
PHL 370	Political Philosophy
PHL 372	Values & Economics
PHL 379	Latin American Philosophy
WGS	
WGS 250	Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies
WGS 350	Feminist Social Change
WGS 351	Global South Feminisms
SEE	
SEE 250	Introduction to Sustainability, Energy & the Environment
SEE 280	Sustainable Communities
SEE 301	Earth Systems & Global Climate Change
SEE 303	Constructions of Place
SEE 323	Cities and Energy
SEE 325	Sustainable Goals
PSY	
PSY 341	Social Psychology
PSY 390	Forensic Psychology
PSY 431	Interviewing & Counseling
HSS	
HSS 302	Community Nutrition
HSS 384	Food Justice
VAR/VAH	
VAH 310	History of Art and Activism
VAR 315	Visual Ethics
VAR 350	Art and Social Practice
VAH 382	History of Photography I
VAH 482	History of Photography II
VAH 483	PostColonial and Global Art Histories
SPN	

SPN 346	Performing Human Rights in Latin/x America	
THR		
THR 313	Social Justice & Dramatic Literature	
THR 352	Applied Theatre	
MPA		
MPA 561	Nonprofit & Community Leadership	
CJS		
CJS 336	Comparative Criminal Justice Systems	
CJS 360	Anti-Human Trafficking Advocacy	
CJS 375	Restorative Justice	
ECO		
ECO 200	Capitalism, Civil Society and the Common Good	
ECO 460	Economic Development & Growth	
GLC		
GLC 310	Post-Soviet Popular Cultures	
GLC 334	Immigrants, Refugees, and National Images: German-American Relations	
GLC 335	Gender, Sexuality & the Holocaust	
GLC 336	Nazi Cinema and Mass Manipulation in the Third Reich	
GLC 338	The Holocaust in Literature, Film & Culture	
GLC 340	The French-Speaking World through Cinema	
GLC 344	French and Francophone Ecosystems	
GLC 347	Latin/x America and Performing Human Rights	
GLC 349	Haiti : Pearl of The Antilles Then and Now	
HRS		
HRS 329	Genocide, Mass Atrocity and Transitional Justice	
HRS 360	Anti-Human Trafficking Advocacy	
HRS 392	Human Rights and Development in Africa	
MUS		
MUS 302	Ethics and American Popular Music	
RCE		
RCE 200	Introduction to Race and Ethnic Studies	
Total Hours		33
Breadth		
ASI 150	Introduction to the University Experience	1
Total hours to total at least		120

¹ Majors must demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language by passing a University proficiency examination or by completing a language course at the 141 level or higher with a minimum grade of C in one of the following languages:

- Arabic
- French
- German
- Italian
- Mandarin Chinese
- Russian
- Spanish

² May include CAP Components.

³ The English Literature requirement for the HRS major also satisfies the Literature requirement in the Liberal Studies Curriculum.

Minor in Human Rights Studies (HRS)

The interdisciplinary minor in Human Rights Studies provides students an opportunity to address issues related to human rights from various disciplinary approaches. The universal nature of human rights issues may directly relate to a major, while in other cases this minor will provide an opportunity for broadening one's exposure to these important topics.

The Human Rights Studies minor requires 18 semester hours. It is recommended that the required course be taken in the sophomore year. Students should consult with the Director of Human Rights Studies to ensure that the courses selected from the elective pool display a significant degree of coherence. Courses taken from this minor may be applied to other minors and to breadth and general education requirements.

A minor in human rights studies consists of 15 semester hours of interdisciplinary instruction focused on contemporary understandings of human dignity, justice, and equality through legal, historical, philosophical, political, social, economic and/or religious perspectives. The minor requires 9 hours of foundational human rights courses and 6 hours of courses that explore the practical application of human rights, 3 of which can be completed through an experiential learning opportunity.

Human Rights Studies (15 hours)

HRS 200	Introduction to Human Rights ¹	
or HRS 497 Capstone Seminar in Human Rights Studies		
Human Rights Foundations (select two):		6
ANT 325	Anthropology of Human Rights	
ENG 346	Literature & Human Rights	
HST 390	History of Human Rights	
PHL 371	Philosophy & Human Rights	
POL 333	Politics of Human Rights	
REL 261	Faith Traditions: Human Rights	
SOC 371	Sociology of Human Rights	
Human Rights Applied (select two): ¹		6
CMM 356	Argumentation and Advocacy	3
HSS 384	Food Justice	3
POL 334	Politics of Human Rights II	3
RCE 310	Standing Rock: Sovereignty and Indigenous Rights	3
SEE 325	Sustainable Goals	3
SWK 370	Advocacy Practice in Social Work	3
THR 313	Social Justice & Dramatic Literature	3
VAR 350	Art and Social Practice	3
WGS 350	Feminist Social Change	3
or WGS 351 Global South Feminisms		

¹ Students can enroll in HRS 497 if they have added the minor in junior or senior year.

² Students can also complete 3 credit hours of experiential learning with permission of HRS Director to meet 3 of the 6 hours required in this category.

Bachelor of Arts, Human Rights Studies

First Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ASI 150		1 HUM 102 (CAP Humanities Commons)	3
HUM 101 (CAP Humanities Commons)		3 CMM 100 (CAP Oral Communication)	3
HRS 200 (Or Elective)		3 HRS 200 (Or elective if already completed)	3
CAP Mathematics Course		3 CAP Natural Science Course w/ Lab	4
CAP Arts Course		3 Language 141	3
Language 101		3	
	16		16
Second Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ENG 200 (CAP Second-Year Writing)		3 ANT 325, SOC 326, or SOC 371	3
POL 333		3 PHL 371, REL 363, or REL 261	3
ENG 346 or HST 390		3 CAP Interdisciplinary Investigations Course	3
BA Arts Course		3 CAP Advanced Philosophical Studies Course	3
Language 201 or Contextual Course		3 Applied Skills Course (HRS Major requirement)	3
	15		15
Third Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
Research Methods Course (HRS Major requirement)		3 Experiential Learning Course (HRS Major requirement)	3
HRS Major Elective		3 HRS Major Elective	3
BA Natural Science or Math Course		3 BA Social Science Course	3
CAP Social Science Course		3 CAP Advanced Religious Studies/Faith Traditions Course	3
CAP Advanced Historical Studies Course		3 CAP Diversity and Social Justice Course	3
	15		15

Fourth Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
HRS Major Elective		3 HRS 497 (Satisfies CAP Major Capstone)	3
BA Humanities Course		3 BA Interdisciplinary Programs Course (other than HRS)	3
CAP Practical Ethical Action Course		3 BA Elective	3
BA Elective		3 General Elective	3
BA Elective		3 General Elective	1-3
		15	13-15
Total credit hours: 120-122			

Courses

HRS 200. Introduction to Human Rights. 3 Hours

Exploration of the rights of individuals and groups at global, national and local levels. Examination of basic questions about what humans are and what rights are, and a careful consideration of the foundations of rights claims and the myriad of mechanisms for defending and enforcing rights. Investigation into the key social, political, historical, and economic factors that lead to human rights violations and ways in which human rights research methods inform human rights theory and practice.

HRS 329. Genocide, Mass Atrocity and Transitional Justice. 3 Hours

Study of the causes of mass atrocities, the moral and legal challenges involved in responding to them, and the steps individuals can take to raise awareness of these urgent issues. Prerequisites: PHL 103 or HST 103 or ASI 110 or ASI 120 or equivalent.

HRS 360. Anti-Human Trafficking Advocacy. 3 Hours

Exploration of human trafficking at global, national, and local levels with a focus on advocacy and disruption efforts.

HRS 375. Moral Courage Project. 3 Hours

Preparation only for those students selected to engage in the Moral Courage Project, a cohorted program of the UD Human Rights Center. Selected through a competitive process, participating students develop skills and content knowledge in advance of the program's immersive fieldwork phase, following the semester. Areas of study include foundations of human rights, media studies and narrative storytelling, interviewing and audio production techniques, and subject matter knowledge of a particular human rights event that will be identified for each cycle.

HRS 392. Human Rights and Development in Africa. 3 Hours

Study of human rights and development in Africa. Topics may include racial and other inequalities, poverty, debt, foreign aid, food security, land reform, population, migration and displacement, environment, corruption, and illicit transfer of capital.

HRS 451. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for Human Rights. 4 Hours

This course introduces the concepts and implementation of analysis in geographic information systems (GIS), and applies the GIS tool to different human right situations or investigations. This course is cross-listed with GIS 451 and GIS 551.

HRS 497. Capstone Seminar in Human Rights Studies. 3 Hours

Examination and reflection of scholarship and experiential learning activity related to interdisciplinary major. Project and public presentation on a contemporary human rights challenge demonstrating practical wisdom and critical evaluation of our times. Exploration of leadership, advocacy and service opportunities in human rights and humanitarian assistance as vocation.

HRS 498. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours

Research or special readings on problems of interest to the student under the guidance of a Human Rights Studies faculty or staff member. Permission of department chairperson.