

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE

FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 7518S

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

IDC 3 / APC Document 67 (HRST): Add a minor in Human Rights Studies to be administered by the Political Science Department

Effective Date: Fall 2018

1. Add: On page 188, following the entry for Humanities:

Minor in Human Rights Studies

The Human Rights Studies minor will help students think critically, creatively, and comprehensively about human rights locally, nationally, and internationally from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. While administered by the Political Science department, it draws content, methods and skills from across the disciplines. Insights from Political Science, Anthropology, Sociology, Economics, History, Literature, Philosophy, and a variety of Interdisciplinary Programs can help elucidate and explain how various human rights concepts have emerged, evolved, been codified and implemented (often selectively and incompletely).

The program will highlight the philosophical and political tensions inherent in human rights discourse and action, and will also promote unique student opportunities for undergraduate research and engaged scholarship in human rights, helpful to careers in areas such as public policy and administration, education, human services, humanitarian aid, business, journalism, law, criminal justice and law enforcement.

Requirements for the Minor

The Human Rights Studies minor requires a minimum of 18 semester hours, including one course from HRST 201, INTS 214, PHIL 214 or POLS 388. The additional courses should be chosen from the lists below. No more than three courses can come from any one discipline, and no more than two courses can be used from the student's major or other minors. Other appropriate courses with a human rights emphasis may be approved by the program director.

Students should consult with the director of the minor to ensure that the courses selected display a significant degree of coherence and coverage. Students are encouraged to include a human rights-related undergraduate research project, community-engaged scholarship project, internship, and/or study abroad experience, approved by the director of the Human Rights Studies minor, as part of their program of study.

University-wide minimum requirements for a minor: 1) one-half of the hours required for a minor must be completed in residence at UNC Asheville, to include at least 6 hours at the 300-400 level; 2) students must have a cumulative grade-point-average of at least 2.0 on minor courses taken at UNC Asheville.

Human Rights in Global Perspective

AFST	334	Global Leadership and International Service (4)
AFST	364	Africa in the Global Context (4)
AIIS	200	Introduction to American Indian and Indigenous Studies (4)
AIIS	205	Issues, Ideas and Identity in Contemporary Native America (4)
ASIA	334	Nation-Building, Identity and Diversity in South Asia (4)
ETHN	100	Introduction to U.S. Ethnic Studies (4)
HIST	389	The Modern Middle East (4)
INTS	334	Nation-Building, Identity and Diversity in South Asia (4)
LIT	328	Ethnic Literatures (4)
PHIL	304	Social and Political Philosophy (4)
PHIL	305	Philosophy of Law (4)
PHIL	315	Islamic Philosophy (4)
PHIL	323	Philosophy of Third World Feminism (4)
POLS	320	Challenges to American Democracy (4)
POLS	344	Black Political Thought (4)
POLS	362	African Politics (4)
POLS	389	International Law (3)
RELS	315	Islamic Philosophy (4)
SOC	320	Sociology of Race (4)

Human Rights of Marginalized Populations

ANTH	339	Intersections of Gender in the Americas (4)
ANTH	350	Body, Disability, and Culture (4)
ANTH	357	Disrupted Lives: The Anthropology of Social Suffering (4)
LIT	346	Readings in Gender and Sexuality (4)
PHIL	302	Philosophy of Sex and Gender (4)
PHIL	321	Philosophy of Disability (4)
PHIL	365	Feminist Theory (4)
POLS	348	Women and Politics (4)
SOC	220	Juvenile Delinquency (4)
SOC	390	Queer Sociology (4)
SOC	380	Feminist Theory (4)
WGSS	100	Introduction to Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies (4)
WGSS	365	Feminist Theory (4)

Civil and Political Rights

AFST	433	Politics of War in Africa (4)
HIST	301	Women in United States History: 1865 to the Present (4)
HIST	302	African American History: 1865 to the Present (4)
HIST	307	Women in the Modern Civil Rights Movement (4)
HIST	331	Race, Nations and Genocide (4)
POLS	311	Politics of Violence (4)
POLS	330	Individual Rights and Civil Liberties (3)
POLS	331	Immigration and Refugee Law and Policy (3)
POLS	343	Politics of the Civil Rights Era (4)
POLS	368	Latin American Politics (4)
POLS	387	International Organizations (4)
PSYC	343	Psychology and Law (4)
SOC	200	Criminology (4)
SOC	480	Sociology of Law (4)

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

ASIA	364	Gender and Development in South Asia (4)
ECON	242	Economics of Food (3)
ECON	314	Economic Growth and Development (3)
ECON	337	Environmental Economics and Policy (3)
ENVR	324	Environmental Ethics (3)
ENVR	332	Environmental Management (3)
HWP	250	Health Parity: Domestic and Global Contexts (3)
INTS	364	Gender and Development in South Asia (4)
POLS	325	Urban Politics (4)
POLS	337	ReStorying Community (4)
POLS	353	Politics and Social Welfare Policy (4)
POLS	357	Civic Engagement in Community (4)
POLS	363	The Political Economy of Development (4)
SOC	210	Contemporary Social Problems (4)
SOC	312	Society, Culture, and Poverty (4)
SOC	387	Gender, Globalization and Development (4)

Courses in Human Rights Studies (HRST)

201 Perspectives on Human Rights (3-4)

An introduction to human rights as understood from a variety of philosophical, political and cultural perspectives. The focus is primarily on the concept of human rights, how it has evolved into an international practice. The course draws from interdisciplinary source materials to investigate the impacts of international human rights doctrine around the world. Every year.

171-4, 271-4, 371-4, 471-4 Special Topics in Human Rights Studies (1-4)

Courses not otherwise included in the catalog listing but for which there may be special needs. May be repeated for credit as often as permitted and as subject matter changes.

178 Liberal Arts Colloquia (LA 178) (3-4)

Course offered to fulfill Liberal Arts Core requirements. See Liberal Arts section of catalog for course description. May not be used to fulfill major or minor requirements.

Impact: We expect that there will be minimal impact on resources and staffing with the addition of the minor in Human Rights Studies. Except for HRST 201, the courses that will be included in the minor are already being taught, and there are many. As such, there are no required introduction or capstone courses that would pull faculty away from other teaching commitments. Of the HRST-prefixed or human rights intensive courses, POLS 388 has been offered regularly. Additionally, we have a commitment from the Philosophy department to ensure that PHIL/INTS 214 is offered regularly as well so as to accommodate minors. Finally, Grace Campbell (HUM) has indicated her desire and ability to contribute to the minor by offering a HRST 201 course. Teaching this course once a year could marginally impact her ability to contribute to LAC or Environment Studies (ENVR 324). Further, there are no sequencing or distribution requirements that would put additional demands on faculty or students' schedules. **Although this may need to be revisited if the minor is more popular than anticipated, there are numerous course options so there should be a minimal impact from increased enrollment in any individual class, as students will likely distribute their course selections across the available options.**

The new HRST 201, which constitutes a choice for a requirement for the Human Rights Studies minor, will be offered by a rotating set of instructors. Grace Campbell has stated her interest and commitment/availability to offer this course, at least initially. For Fall 2018, it is scheduled as a 200-level special topics course in political science and will be taught by Grace Campbell. In addition, we expect that this course could be taught by four or more current political science faculty (i.e., Betsalel, Cornett, Gibney, and Haschke) in the future. To accommodate faculty teaching under the 3-credit hour model (e.g., Gibney) we seek to list HRST 201 with both 3 and 4-credit hour options, but do not expect the experience of students to vary across those two options. As demand in the minor grows, we hope to recruit additional faculty from outside of the political science department to teach this lecture/seminar type course. We understand that there is support among departments/programs to allow faculty to offer this course as part of their regular schedules or in place of electives and we expect the resource impact of this course addition to be minimal. No specialized space or material needs are anticipated and HRST 201 will not add new requirements to existing majors and minors. Consequently, the impact on students in existing majors/minors is negligible as well.

We expect that the directorship and advisory committee will add marginally to faculty workload and to the “committee overload” that many faculty members already experience. It is not expected to overtax the participating faculty, at least initially. This may change as the minor grows, and the committee would then need to re-evaluate the program’s impact and reassess how to manage the minor and the associated workload. Typically, advisory committees meet only a couple times each semester to set broad policy goals. The day-to-day details, including advising minors, are performed primarily by the Director. The Director’s workload will depend on the number of minors (unknown), the willingness of other faculty to share advising functions (in this case, generous), and the complexity of the program (in this case, not complex). Anecdotally, advising minors seems to represent a very modest part of the advising workload.

Membership on the advisory committee should be less onerous if participation is based on self-nominations and thus includes faculty who are already invested in the program, while adding a welcome diversity of people and perspectives to the minor.

Specifically, the selection of the Human Rights Studies advisory committee should be guided by the following principles:

- The committee should broadly represent the departments and programs that contribute expertise and classes to it.
- Committee members should be based on self-nominations as well as nominations from chairs and program directors to assure faculty members with particular interests and expertise are able to participate as well as representatives of highly invested departments and programs.
- The committee should represent a diverse range of interested faculty members, with attention to a diversity of academic ranks, genders, as well as professional and personal backgrounds and interests.

Projected HRST-prefixed or Human Rights intensive course schedule for the next five semesters:

	HRST 201	PHIL/INTS 214	POLS 388
Fall 2018	Grace Campbell		
Spring 2019	TBA	Brian Butler	
Fall 2019	Grace Campbell		Mark Gibney
Spring 2020	TBA	Brian Butler	
Fall 2020	TBA		Mark Gibney

Rationale: At a general interest meeting set up to elicit feedback on how to design and organize a human rights curriculum, the consensus was that the minor include at least one requirement or course that brings students together and attempts to provide a unifying experience. A majority of participants stated that requiring an introductory or capstone type course that explicitly focuses on human rights would be desirable. PHIL/INTS 214: Philosophy of Human Rights constitutes such a course, as does POLS 388: Human Rights and International Politics. While both courses provide human rights centric instruction, each is limiting in the sense that faculty with human rights expertise outside of philosophy, law, or political science would be excluded from teaching or offering their perspective. (Note: that the majority of courses listed in this minor are offered by faculty outside of philosophy and political science.) HRST 201 will be offered as an option (along with PHIL/INTS 214 and POLS 388) to meet the HRST-prefixed or HRST-cross-listed requirement that is open to interested faculty from across the university.

There are several compelling rationales for a minor in Human Rights Studies at UNC Asheville and for its administration by the Department of Political Science. Virtually every issue of public importance today has important human rights implications; consider, for example, gender-based violence, racism, police brutality, mass incarceration, free speech, poverty, homelessness, disease, environmental degradation, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, immigration, refugee movements, and war, to name a few. UNC Asheville cannot hope to promote the “understanding of...human diversity while recognizing the common humanity of all” (UNC Asheville Mission Statement) without making human rights a central element of its curriculum.

Likewise, the UNC Asheville Political Science department cannot claim to “cultivate students who think critically, creatively and systematically about the contemporary world; who communicate effectively in diverse communities; and who are actively engaged in local, national, and international life” (Political Science Mission Statement) without privileging human rights study. Fortunately, the department already does this. Human rights classes (in various guises) are available across the curriculum and at every level. The department contains a critical mass of energy, expertise, and experience in human rights and civil rights that can inform local, national, and international audiences.

Indeed, the UNC Asheville Political Science department has become an unlikely leader in human rights study and measurement locally, nationally, and internationally, as well as a model of engaged scholarship.

- Locally, Dr. Mullen’s on-going research with students and colleagues on the “State of Black Asheville” and, more recently, the “State of Black North Carolina” has continued to inspire and inform public policy debates, particularly around racial disparities in health, education, housing, and criminal justice. Dr. Dolly Jenkins Mullen has added critical insights into the role of class and gender, as well as race, on American Politics and Policy. This decade-long research was instrumental in the Buncombe County Commission’s decision to appropriate \$500,000 to support community-based proposals for economic development in the county’s predominantly African-American communities.
- Dr. Betsalel has established deep roots in local community organizing and civic engagement. Dr. Betsalel’s community service courses and projects are not merely volunteerism; they are heavily informed by academic insights and methods and they frequently lead to undergraduate research projects. Neither is civic engagement simply an academic exercise for Dr. Betsalel and his students; it is a partnership in community development. Students use academic insights and methods to gain a richer understanding of contemporary political and human rights issues and, in turn, enrich their communities through local engagement and service.
- Dr. Gibney is an internationally recognized human rights scholar and Dr. Haschke is active in the field. Gibney, Haschke, and Cornett are all lead-investigators for the Political Terror Scale (PTS) and the new Societal Violence Scale (SVS). The PTS and the SVS are produced and published annually by UNCA faculty, alumni, and students. The PTS is commonly recognized to be “one of the most widely used indicators in comparative analyses of human-rights practices.” Indeed, the

PTS website is visited roughly 1,300 times per month and the PTS data are downloaded more than 300 times a month. Dr. Haschke has identified well over 250 references to the PTS in peer reviewed journals and books since 2014. Although new, the Societal Violence Scale (formally introduced in the November 2016 edition of *Human Rights Quarterly*) is already attracting attention from human rights scholars and advocates.

Over the last decades, each of these on-going programs of study and engagement in political science have given literally hundreds of students the opportunity to become creators, as well as sophisticated users, of human rights data and to pursue undergraduate research and community-engaged scholarship in human rights. Many have gone on to pursue exciting and meaningful careers inspired, in part, by these experiences.

Despite strong student, faculty, and community interest, there is currently no dedicated program of study for human rights at UNC Asheville. Creation of a minor in Human Rights Studies is designed to remedy that deficit while also bridging the artificial divide between human rights and civil rights study. The Human Rights Studies minor will help students think critically, creatively, and comprehensively about human rights locally, nationally, and internationally. It will also enrich student opportunities for undergraduate research and engaged scholarship in human rights, continuing the University's reputation for "making an impact" while giving students skills and experiences helpful to careers in public policy and administration, education, human services, humanitarian aid, journalism, business, law, law enforcement, and criminal justice, to name just a few possibilities. Finally, we anticipate that the minor could serve as a valuable recruiting tool for students, faculty, community partners, and donors, especially from diverse backgrounds.

Aided by a Human Rights Studies Advisory Committee, the Political Science department will appoint the director of the Human Rights Studies minor although the director may come from any discipline. The director serves as chair of the advisory committee. The committee will be composed of a representative sample of participants from across the curriculum (ideally representing members from each division). The advisory committee will regularly review, refine, and revise the curriculum, assess the directorship, and develop future objectives.

The Human Rights Studies program should be a minor rather than a certificate or cluster. The meaning and role of minors in higher education is well-understood and well-accepted. Minors are focused but more narrowly circumscribed program of academic study in a given subject area, typically housed within an established department or program. The meaning of certification in higher education is more ambiguous. Traditionally, certification more commonly refers to technical or professional training more than academic study. Clusters do not appear to have any well-recognized meaning in academia. The proposed human right minor falls fully and firmly into the tradition of academic minors not in technical or professional training.