

MULTIDISCIPLINARY ACADEMIC PROGRAM IN HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

Information for Human Rights Scholars

Spring 2023

Academic Requirements

- **Gateway Course:** You must enroll in PLSC 148 Theories, Practices, and Politics of Human Rights in sophomore spring. The only exceptions are for students who will be abroad or who have a course required for their major at a conflicting time.
- **Elective Courses:** You must take **4 elective courses** to fulfill the requirements of the program. We expect your electives to reflect the interdisciplinary nature of human rights study. You should aim to engage with a diversity of methodologies, disciplines, geographic regions, and issue areas. We also encourage you to explore both theoretical and practical perspectives on human rights through your electives.
 - Generally, MAPHR students may take one of their electives on a Cr/D/F basis. If students wish to count more than one Cr/D/F course as one of their MAPHR electives, they should request approval from the MAPHR director.
 - **When to take electives:** We recommend that most, if not all, of your electives be completed during your junior year. You may not count any courses taken prior to your first semester in the Program as electives.
 - **Counting electives from your major: You may count a maximum of two courses as Human Rights Program electives that are also counting toward your major(s).** This is true for scholars who are double majoring, too. You may count only two courses total from your majors as MAPHR electives.
 - Please note that the Gateway course is cross listed with Political Science. Students majoring in Political Science who count the Gateway course toward their major requirements may count **only one other Political Science course** as a MAPHR elective.
 - For double majors in Political Science or Political Science majors in a certificate program, see further details about the elective policy below.
 - If you are double majoring or completing a certificate (such as a language certificate), you cannot have more than two overlaps between your majors (or major and certificate) **AND the Human Rights Program**. For example, if you are a double major in English and History and take a course that you are counting toward both majors, you could count only one more course that overlaps with one of your majors as a MAPHR elective. Similarly, if you are a History major completing a language certificate in Spanish and are counting a course toward both programs, you would have only one additional course overlapping with your major or certificate program available to use as a MAPHR elective.
 - Note: Political Science double majors should remember that the Gateway course counts as one of their overlaps if it is fulfilling their Political Science credit requirements. For example, a Political Science and History double major who counts the Gateway for the Political Science major requirement and counts a course toward both majors would not be able to

count any History or Political Science courses as MAPHR electives.

- **Petitioning electives:** As of Spring 2021, Scholars must submit a petition for all courses that they wish to count as electives. (Please see the list of past electives [here](#).)
 - We will make a decision based on our Elective Criteria (see below), as well as whether the proposed elective fits in with the Program’s commitment to a diversity of perspectives, disciplines, and themes—i.e., we will be less likely to approve a proposed elective that is very similar to the courses you have already taken.
 - During course registration periods, we will inform you of the deadline for submitting elective petitions to receive a decision before you must finalize your schedule. You may petition electives at other times as well, though we strongly encourage you to petition during course registration in order to plan your schedule efficiently and in the way that is least disruptive to your semester.
- **Elective Criteria:** The formal criterion for Program electives is that courses should “engage with the language, ideas, and methods of human rights.” Additional guidance about elective petitions is available as a linked resource on the MAPHR website. You must read this guidance prior to petitioning a course. Please note that there are many courses that will complement your participation in the Human Rights Program but will not meet the specific Elective Criteria.
- **Capstone Project:** You will complete a capstone project in the context of the Program’s required capstone seminar in the fall of your senior year.

Event Requirements

- In your sophomore spring semester, you must attend three Schell Center-sponsored events or other approved human rights events and write a short reflection paper on each of the events. In your junior year, you must submit an event reflection paper for one Schell Center-sponsored event or approved human rights event each semester. Reflection essays should be 300-400 words. Seniors are not required to submit event reflection papers.
 - Please send your reflection papers as an attachment to humanrights.program@yale.edu (cc’ing Shannon) with the subject “Name – Reflection – Event Title and Date” within one week of having attended the event (for sophomores) or by the end of classes (for juniors).