

MULTIDISCIPLINARY ACADEMIC PROGRAM IN HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

The Multidisciplinary Academic Program in Human Rights Studies offers Yale undergraduates the opportunity to explore human rights from an interdisciplinary perspective, providing students with the analytical and practical skills necessary for human rights study and human rights-related careers. With administrative, financial and programmatic support from the Schell Center for International Human Rights, the Program connects students to faculty and peers with similar interests, supports student research projects and internship opportunities, and offers coherent career guidance in the field.

Human rights today constitute a profoundly influential moral language and legal system through which to understand contemporary global affairs, not simply political but also cultural, social, and economic. Anthropology, area studies, law, literature, philosophy, political science, and many other fields have explored human rights issues from their own particular disciplinary perspectives and with their particular methodologies. The Human Rights Program is meant to recognize this complexity and to support a diverse community of scholars across the university; since its founding in 2014, the Program has included students from departments across the University, including biology, computer science, English, environmental studies, history, and economics.

The Program fosters community and provides opportunities beyond the classroom. Human Rights Scholars come together for social events, workshops, symposia, human rights-related talks, and the annual Senior Capstone Symposium; they learn from one another not just in their classes, but also in weekly dinners and mentorships. Throughout their time in the Program, students receive academic, summer and post-graduate advising, and the Schell Center is able to provide limited financial support to pursue summer internships at human rights organizations or research projects on human rights issues.

Please e-mail humanrights.program@yale.edu with any questions. If you would like to receive information about the program—such as dates for information sessions or special events—or receive other information about human rights events at Yale, go to groups.bulldogs.yale.edu and join the EliList *humanrightsatyale*.

CONTACT

Browse the Schell Center's website for information about affiliated faculty, Program requirements, and how to apply, and email humanrights.program@yale.edu with any questions. If you would like to receive information about the program—such as dates for information sessions or special events—or receive other information about human rights events at Yale, go to groups.bulldogs.yale.edu and join the EliList *humanrightsatyale*.

To be added to the Schell Center events mailing list, go to: mailman.yale.edu/mailman/listinfo/human.rights-list.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Program admission occurs in the fall of sophomore year. For the Class of 2025, the application for Human Rights Scholars (available online) will be due on **Tuesday, October 25th, by 11:59 PM**. Applicants will receive notice of admission decisions before the start of spring semester.

REQUIREMENTS

The Multidisciplinary Academic Program in Human Rights has six required courses: a gateway lecture course, four electives, and a senior colloquium. In their senior year, Scholars complete a capstone project informed by their coursework, extracurricular activities, and summer internships or research.

Gateway Course

HMRT 100/PLSC 148 “Theory, Practices, and Politics of Human Rights,” offered in spring 2023, introduces students to the core ideas, issues, practices, and controversies regarding human rights. In doing so, its objective is to map the complex terrain that human rights and their study occupy, rather than (merely) to justify the concept's existence.

Human Rights Scholars are required to take the course in spring of their sophomore year, unless they are studying abroad or receive permission from the Program Director for other extenuating circumstances.

Elective Courses

Each Human Rights Scholar is required to take four electives, drawn from existing Yale courses. Each Scholar's elective courses should reflect the interdisciplinary nature of human rights study, including a diversity of perspectives and methodologies across departments and disciplines. For example, Scholars are encouraged to select courses that explore different geographic or thematic areas and that introduce them to both theoretical and practical concerns. Our formal criterion for a Program elective is that a course “engage with the language, ideas, and methods of human

rights.” We ask that you distinguish this from courses that address issues that affect people’s human rights, would be susceptible to a human rights analysis, or would simply be useful for understanding a human rights issue in which you are interested. Rather, with the Program’s goal of enabling a coherent study of human rights and with only four electives required, we expect your electives to focus on courses that will engage directly with and enhance your knowledge of and facility with the concepts, institutions, and development of human rights discourse. Scholars will be required to have their electives approved by the Program Director and will also have the opportunity to petition for additional courses in Yale College or for graduate courses to count as electives. Please note that only courses taken following the student’s admission to the Program will satisfy the elective requirement.

Capstone Project

Each Human Rights Scholar will undertake a capstone project in the fall of senior year, to be informed by the student’s extracurricular experience and developed in consultation with the Program Director. In order to complete the project, scholars will enroll in a weekly seminar (HMRT 400: Advanced Human Rights Colloquium) in which they will study advanced topics in contemporary human rights law and advocacy, develop their capstone projects in consultation with the instructors, present drafts of their projects to their peers, and offer peer reviews on one another’s work.

ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS

The Program will also provide students with faculty advising; support for peer collaboration; information about and access to related university events (speakers, lectures, conferences) and guidance on career and internship opportunities.

PEOPLE

Program Director: **Prof. James J. Silk**, Binger Professor of Law; Director, Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic; Director, Orville H. Schell, Jr. Center for International Human Rights, Yale Law School

Program Administrator: **Prof. Hope Metcalf**, Executive Director, Orville H. Schell, Jr. Center for Human Rights

Advisory Committee:

Prof. Moira Fradinger, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature

Prof. Crystal Feimster, Associate Professor of African American Studies, History and American Studies

Prof. Louisa Lombard, Associate Professor of Anthropology

Prof. Alice Miller, Associate Professor of Law, Yale Law School; Co-Director, Global Health Justice Partnership; Assistant Clinical Professor, School of Public Health; Lecturer in Global Affairs, Jackson School of Global Affairs

Prof. Samuel Moyn, Professor of History; Professor of Jurisprudence, Yale Law School

Prof. Jill Richards, Assistant Professor of English; Affiliated Faculty, Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program

Prof. David Simon, Senior Lecturer and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Political Science; Director, Genocide Studies Program; Director of Graduate Studies, Center for African Studies

Prof. Quan Tran, Lecturer, American Studies and Ethnicity, Race, & Migration

Prof. Elisabeth Wood, Professor of Political Science and International and Area Studies; Crosby Professor of the Human Environment

Talya Lockman-Fine (YC '15, YLS '20), Alumni Representative

Shannon Sommers, MAPHR '22, Community Human Rights Fellow, Schell Center