HUMAN RIGHTS CONCENTRATION

OVERVIEW

MALAS students who complete a concentration in Human Rights will develop an understanding of the following CORE CONTENT areas. We recognize that each student will develop a specific program of study in Human Rights emphasizing the area(s) that are most pertinent to the student’s specific interests, issues and applications of questions of Human Rights. Course work and preparation of exam reading lists will provide a strong general understanding of human rights questions while at the same time reflecting issues relevant to the specific areas of interest of the student. We consider the key core content areas as:

1. International Human Rights Norms
   - The postwar context for the emergence of modern Human Rights norms in domestic and international law, including humanitarian law/laws of war;
   - The history of periodization of events and debates that defined civil and political rights;
   - Liberal theory and historical constructions of individual rights regimes, in the global and Latin American contexts;
   - Human Rights norms in post-authoritarian, post-transition, post-civil war Latin America;
   - Tension and conflict between international Human Rights norms and domestic political institutions and ideologies, for example national security ideologies;
   - Tension and conflict between international Human Rights norms and cultural norms;

2. Human Rights Practice in Latin America
   - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and critical applications through international non-governmental organizations, multi-country accords, UN High Commissions etc.;
   - Inter-American Human Rights institutions;
   - State violence and authoritarian regimes in Latin America, particularly the institutional history and political participation of military actors;
   - Human Rights practices in post-authoritarian, post-transition, post-civil war Latin American cases, including changes in military/police practices in relation to crime, poverty, and drug-related violence;
   - Social and political movements for the defense of Human Rights in Latin America, including transnational and international linkages;
   - Challenges to narrow definitions of Human Rights (life and liberty) from broader Human Rights norms and movements that include economic and cultural rights as well as those of women, indigenous, and sexual minorities;

3. Culture and Representation
   - The historical legacy of Human Rights issues in Latin American cultural discourse, from the colonial to the contemporary period;
   - Culture as a space of contestation of authoritarian regimes, official discourse, and the legitimacy of and official justifications for state actions;
   - Cultural production as a post-authoritarian forum for the expansion of understandings and applications of Human Rights;
   - Culture as a space for the reclaiming of rights of minorities and traditionally excluded groups;
   - The commodification and expediency of culture in relation to Human Rights questions.
**Core Reading List**
Students should obtain the core reading list for the Human Rights concentration from the Associate Director. This list is required reading for all Human Rights students in conjunction with a secondary list developed by each student with her or his Human Rights exam committee. Professors will make an effort to integrate a selection of these core readings into courses that qualify towards the Human Rights Concentration.

**Courses**
Students should select two courses from Group 1, at least one of which must be a Law course, and at least one course each from Groups 2 and 3. The list below reflects the Latin American Studies Program’s current Human Rights offerings. As with any plan of study, the Human Rights Concentration is subject to approval by the Associate Director, who will determine the suitability of individual courses taken for the Concentration.

*Course Frequency Key*

- A = offered every semester
- B = offered one semester every year
- C = offered every other year
- D = offered when student interest and faculty availability allow

**Group 1: International Human Rights Norms:**
Students must write a research paper focused on a Latin American issue or experience

- LAW 505 International Law (B)
- LAW 541 Human Rights Law I (D)
- LAW 548 Refugee and Asylum Law (D)
- LAW 626 International Criminal Law (D)
- LAW XXX* Indigenous People and International Law (C)
- LAW XXX* Interrogation and the Global War on Terrorism (D)
- POLS 521 Human Rights in Latin America (D)
- LTAM 500 Introduction to Human Rights: Latin American Focus (D)

**Group 2: Human Rights Practice in Latin America:**

- HIST 300/500 Military and Society in Latin America (D)
- HIST 574 Southern South America (D)
- ANTH 530 Colombia Indígena (D)
- ANTH 539 Human Rights in Anthropology (D)
- ECON 423* Topics in Latin American Development (C)
- HIST 648 Society and Development in Latin America (D)
- HIST 649 Inter American Relations (D)
- HIST 652 Women in Modern Latin America (D)
- HIST 653 Indigenous Peoples of Latin America (D)
- HIST 690† Latin American Labor and Working Class History (D)
- HIST 690† Women’s Rights in Latin America
- HIST 690† Inter-American Relations (D)
- HIST 690† Latin American Social Movements (D)
- HIST 692 Gender and Sexuality in Latin America (D)
- LAW 628* Law of Indigenous People (D)
- LAW 667* Immigration Law (B)
- POLS 521 Gender Politics: Economics, Family, and War (D)
- POLS 521 Politics and Critical Theory: Class, Races, Gender, and Sexuality (D)

**GROUP 3: CULTURE AND REPRESENTATION**

- LTAM 500 Human Rights in Latin American Literature and Cultural Production (B)
- LTAM 500 Human Rights in Latin American Cinema (B)
- PORT 514 Brazilian Dictatorship
- SPAN 532/PORT 570 Citizens of Consumption: Latin American Fiction of the Post-Dictatorship (D)
- SPAN 536 Colonial Literature (C)
- PORT 570/SPAN 639 Citizenship and Crisis in Contemporary Latin American Literature and Film (D)
- SPAN 639 Migración frontera norte: violencia y literatura en la frontera norte (D)
- SPAN 639 Literatura fronteriza: Letras en rojo y negro (D)
- SPAN 639 Latin America through Documentary (D)

* These courses will require the student to consult with the instructor of the course and complete an LAS Course Content Form, which will then be submitted to the Associate Director for review. The course must demonstrate not only sufficient LAS content but also Human Rights content. Students must write a research paper focused on a Latin American issue or experience.

† These HIST 690 courses may also be listed under HIST 687; students should consult with the instructor of the Associate Director regarding whether a HIST 687 course will count for the concentration.

**HUMAN RIGHTS FACULTY**

Melissa Binder (Economics)
Sherri Burr (Law)
Erin Debenport (Anthropology)
Les Field (Anthropology)
Kimberly Gauderman (Human Rights)
Linda Hall (History)
Mala Htun (Political Science)
Elizabeth Hutchison (History)
Tamara Kay (Sociology)
Jeremy Lehnen (Spanish & Portuguese)
Leila Lehnen (Spanish & Portuguese)
Kathryn McKnight (Spanish & Portuguese)
Margaret Montoya (Law)
Jennifer Moore (Law)
Elizabeth Rapaport (Law)
Lindsay Smith (Anthropology)
William Stanley (Political Science)
Gloria Valencia-Weber (Law)
Christine Zuni Cruz (Law)