

Winter 2025 HMRT Courses

HMRT 389L - Climate, Crime, & Human Rights (gen eds C, T, and H and D pending)

Instructor: Nimisha Sinha

Schedule: Online

Description: In this class, we will listen to select true crime podcasts about ecoterrorists, the Flint water crisis, and Hurricane Katrina. We will consider 1) how true crime stories narrate state violence, 2) if climate violence can be understood criminally, and 3) how human rights address or fail to address climate change. We will analyze a variety of podcasts, from “immersive soundscapes” to investigative journalism. Assignments include a variety of short writing.

HMRT 389M - K-Pop and Human Rights (gen eds c and H pending)

Instructor: Ryan M Stears

Schedule: Online

Description: This course focuses on human rights in the K-pop industry, and its relationship to South Korea’s neoliberal economic policies, particularly after the 1997 Asian financial crisis. Through the first K-pop idol group H.O.T. in 1996 and the first girl group S.E.S. in 1997, to second generation groups such as BIGBANG and Girls’ Generation and, finally, more recent groups, such as EXO, BTS, Red Velvet, Twice, BLACKPINK, Stray Kids, LOONA, SuperM, and others, this course aims to examine human rights within both K-pop and South Korea as a whole, from “slave contracts” that exploit K-pop idols and trainees, to discrimination against women, foreigners, the LGBTQ+ community, and racial and ethnic minorities. How has the East Asian model of capitalism, the 1997 Asian financial crisis, and subsequent neoliberal policies of South Korea, all of which derived from Western influence, affected South Korean culture and K-pop since the Korean Wave began in the 1990s?

Spring 2025 HMRT Courses

HMRT 100 (CRN: 34378) - Human Rights (LEC) - gen eds G, I, N - 20 seats

counts as a core course for the minor

David Cingranelli

MW 10:50-11:50, UU 120

What are human rights, where do they come from, and how do they operate in political and legal spheres today? This course considers culturally diverse and universalist approaches to rights. It introduces students to the study of human rights across disciplines as well as to the work of practitioners and activists. Course materials include important contemporary human rights issues.

HMRT 100 - Human Rights (DIS)

Schedules: Tuesday (4:25-5:25 PM); Thursday (4:25-5:25 PM); Thursday (8:30-9:30 AM); Thursday (6:00-7:00 PM); Tuesday (8:30-9:30 AM); Tuesday (6:00-7:00 PM)

HMRT 276 (CRN: 31671) - Research in Human Rights (gen eds pending)

Alexandra S Moore

TR 1:15 PM - 2:40 PM

This research-intensive course completes The Source Project in Human Rights.

Restricted to current students in HMRT 176.

HMRT 288X (CRN: 36575) - Activism, Feminism & Social Justice - 3 seats

Dara J Silberstein

M 1:10 PM - 4:10 PM

This course will examine the relationship between feminism and activism. Activism refers to the actions taken to empower people so that they can fully participate in the decision-making process that affects their everyday lives. Activism is about sharing power and resources, equity “not just equality, and inclusivity” particularly for those who have been historically marginalized. People of color, low income individuals and families, “queers” and women spearheaded social activism as a way to fight their disenfranchisement. Today these groups continue to be on the front line of activism working towards social justice. How does this activism happen?

Readings and class discussion will explore grassroots activism and the community organizing that is an essential part of successful social change.

HMRT 288Y (CRN: 36815) - LGBTQ History - 3 seats

Sean G Massey

TR 1:15 PM - 2:40 PM

This course surveys the origins of and major developments in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights movements across the last century. Informing the course will be the ways that different epistemological frameworks concerning human sexuality and gender have influenced the political strategies that have guided these social movements, how they have influenced the meaning and significance of the concept "sexual identity", and how this concept can only be understood at its intersection with other identities. Special focus will be given to how major events throughout the 20th century informed the LGBTQ rights movements and the formation of LGBTQ communities and identities. These events include, but are not limited to, two World Wars, post WWII and the civil rights era, the Stonewall Riots, the AIDS epidemic, various shifts in scientific and mental health approaches to the study of sexuality, and the more recent civil rights gains such as overturning sodomy laws and the successes of the marriage equality movement.

HMRT 333 (CRN: 36283) - Human Rights Since 1945 (gen eds pending)

Ute Ritz-Deutch

TR 4:25 PM - 5:50 PM

This course explores the modern history of human rights ideas, institutions and laws since their first implementation after WWII. It traces the historical struggles at particular moments across the globe, which made human rights an important component of international relations and public debate by the 21st century. The course discusses the founding of the UN and passage of early

human rights and humanitarian conventions, including against genocides, torture and disappearance. Finally, it assesses the successes/failures of transnational movements for human rights, including grassroots anti-racist campaigns, gender equality and immigrant rights, and the legal efforts to hold war criminals accountable.

HMRT 380D (CRN: 34994) - Minorities in China & Beyond (gen eds I, N, T, W) - 5 seats

Yi Wang

MW 10:50 AM - 11:50 AM (Dis. Required)

In the popular Western imagination, China has for centuries been perceived as a society of “centeredness,” with all its emphasis on uniformity and harmony. Yet underneath this purported image of homogeneity is the reality of an immense diversity of peoples, terrains, cultures, and practices. This course examines the two groups that complicate and essentially decentralize China as a centered space: ethnic minorities and Chinese diasporas in the global context. Through focused readings, films, lectures, and discussions, we will explore the regional, transnational, and global dynamics of identity, culture, and power that challenge the claims of the monolithic nation-state. Topics to be discussed include ethnic minorities in China (such as the Mongols, Tibetans, Xinjiang Muslims, and minority groups of the southwest) and their connections to the wider world (Central Asia and Southeast Asia), impact of state policies on ethnic relations and the construction of Chinese national identity, migration and transnational experiences of overseas Chinese as minorities in Southeast Asia, North America, and Latin America, and their effects upon modern world economy. No background required.

HMRT 380F (CRN: 36760) - Sex and Law in the Modern U.S. (gen eds D, I, N, T, W, USD) - 5 seats

Leigh A Wheeler

MW 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Most of us think of sex as private and law as public—so what in the world is this course about? Thanks to the actions of activists, litigants, and legal agents (legislators, law enforcers, lawyers, and judges), modern U.S. law has often been brought to bear on various types of sexual expression. Those we consider in this course include birth control (information and devices), nudism, obscenity & pornography, abortion & sterilization, homosexual and transgender behavior and identities, heterosexual behavior (i.e., fornication, adultery, and marriage), and sexual harassment & rape. We will examine how legal agents constructed laws regarding sexuality and also how the subjects of these laws responded. We will study activists and litigants who challenged laws related to sexuality with an aim toward understanding how and why they succeeded or failed (and according to whom). We will focus not just on laws, per se, but also on the people who make them, challenge them, and live under them. Throughout, we will consider issues of gender and race but also class, religion, and ability/disability. Our goal is to develop a better understanding of how American sexual culture and law have worked together to shape the world we inhabit, the ways we think, and even how we desire and act on our desires.

HMRT 381X (CRN: 36451) - Cultures of Human Rights (gen eds D, T, W) - 5 seats

Nimisha Sinha

MWF 9:40 AM - 10:40 AM

Images of war and suffering often fill the news, and painful testimonies follow atrocities. This course explores human rights discourse—legal texts, historical contexts, and cultural productions—in response to violations represented in the literary and visual cultures of our world. We consider human rights not simply as a slogan for social justice but as a legal and political belief system. Through the semester, we will read novels, memoirs, letters, legal testimonies, and historical and legal documents that shape normative notions of human rights; we will ask what the close reading of texts and images can enable us to learn about our current frameworks of human rights. Readings may include fiction like *Waiting for the Barbarians*, *Anil's Ghost*, *Paradise*; theoretical works like *Precarious Life*, *Human Rights Inc.* and *Spectacular Rhetorics*; legal and policy texts like the UDHR, *Convention Against Torture*, and more.

HMRT 383X (CRN: 36809) - Intro to Human Rights Theory & Practice - 3 seats

Maribel Tineo

T 5:50 PM - 8:50 PM

HMRT 387X (CRN: 36598) - Birth, Death, & Migration (gen ed N) - 3 seats

Wendie N Choudary

TR 10:05 AM - 11:30 AM

The world's population is projected to increase from 8.1 billion to 10.4 billion people by 2100. This population boom is not expected to impact geographic regions equally. In fact, more developed nations are expected to see both a graying population and a decrease in births, while less developed nations will continue to see an increase in births. What are the implications?: For population, health and aging, fertility and reproduction, immigration and urbanization, culture and the environment, public policy, and social inequality? In this course, students will be introduced to the discipline of social demography and population studies. We will focus on how populations change through the processes of fertility (births), mortality (deaths), and migration (moving). Throughout the course, we will draw from a wide body of literature concerning scientific debates on population change to understand how population processes influence and shape social policies, health, human rights, and social issues of race, class, and gender.

HMRT 389H (CRN: 36796) - History & Memory of World Wars (gen eds W, I, N, T) - 2 seats

Elisa Camiscioli

TR 4:25 PM - 5:50 PM

This course explores how memory shapes individual and collective interpretations of the World Wars. It includes a mandatory study-abroad component in France, which will occur during Binghamton University's scheduled spring break. Through readings and films, supplemented by on-site visits to museums, memorials, and commemorative sites, we consider how individuals, nations, and citizens remember their past, repress painful memories, create new interpretations, and sometimes even forget. Particular topics include: war and guilt; commemoration and mourning; remembering the Holocaust, the Atomic Bomb, and wartime sexual violence; the relationship between trauma and memory; how survivors articulate loss; and the politics of historical amnesia. During spring break, we will be based in Paris, with trips to sites in Verdun and the Somme region.

HMRT 389J (CRN: 33752) - Prisoner Writings & Activism (gen ed N) - 3 seats

Juanita Diaz

W 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

This course will explore the relationship between the writings (books, biographies, letters, songs, poetry, plays, court statements, prisoner manifestos, articles, essays) of pint@s (prisoners and former prisoners) and human rights movements in the U.S. since the 1950s (e.g., African American, Asian, Native American, Anti-Colonial, Latin@, Women's, LGBT rights). It will examine how pint@s labeled "common criminals" (e.g., Malcolm X, George Jackson, Piri Thomas, Raúl Salinas) as well as those labeled "political prisoners" (e.g., Assata Shakur, Angela Davis, Martin Luther King, Leonard Peltier, Mumia Abu-Jamal, Fannie Lou Hamer, Lolita Lebrón, Cheal) have: (a) been influenced by human rights movements and other pint@s inside and outside the U.S. (e.g., Fidel Castro, Nelson Mandela, Albizu Campos), and, (b) how they have, in turn, inspired and energized the activism of such movements and contributed to the development of their ideologies and praxis. Required videos (documentaries, films, news programs, and other visual sources) will complement required readings and class discussions.

HMRT 389K (CRN: 35857) - US Legal History Since 1890 (gen eds W, D, I, N, T, USD) - 2 seats

Donald G Nieman

TR 11:40 AM - 1:05 PM

This course explores the richly imaginative voices of those who live across the world but see the Middle East (including North Africa) as home. Through the examination of a variety of their cultural production in literature, music, and film, the course engages with critical topics like migration, refugeedom, nationalism/transnationalism, language and translation politics, gender/sexuality, race, home/belonging, and identity by wearing the dual lenses of Postcolonial Cultural Theory and Diaspora Studies. The course pays attention to how diasporic Middle Eastern voices, especially those of women, Afro-Arabs, queer and ethno[1]religious minorities, reimagine their Middle Eastern homeland vis-à-vis their present country of residence/citizenship. Although Middle Eastern diasporas expand over all continents, this course focuses on the Middle Eastern diasporas in Europe and the United States as well as identifies diasporas within the Middle East region itself; such as the significant Black diaspora in the Arab Gulf.

HMRT 389X (CRN: 36478) - Refugee and Immigrant Health (gen ed W) - 3 seats

Titilayo A Okoror

TR 2:50 PM - 4:15 PM

The purpose of the course is to familiarize students with significant health and health service issues that currently (and will for the foreseeable future) challenge the lives and adaptation of immigrants and refugees in the U.S. Students will be provided with an overview of health status of immigrant and refugee populations. Focus on migration, resettlement, adaptation, epidemiological, behavioral, cultural, socioeconomic, legal and political factors impacting health, and interventions to address needs.

HMRT 395 - Internship

Alexandra S Moore

Permission Only - contact amoore@binghamton.edu if you have an internship lined up and are seeking academic credit

HMRT 396 - Collaborative Research in Human Rights

Alexandra S Moore

Permission Only - contact amoore@binghamton.edu

HMRT 481X (CRN: 36450) - Rhetorical Models for Social Change - 2 seats

Robert L Berger

MWF 2:20 PM - 3:20 PM

This course will focus on the discourse and rhetoric of non-violence as a tool for social change. Recent rhetorical models for social and political speech have increasingly taken on the form of extreme calls to violence upon the Other and the destruction of communities. Despite this, many of the most successful social reforms have made significant progress toward their goals utilizing a non-violent philosophy and rhetoric. In this class we examine texts related to the Women's Rights movement in the United States, the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa, as well as the ongoing peaceful protest "Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women". Students will be expected to write research-based midterm and final papers and present material relevant to the class at the end of the semester in a short oral presentation. Freshmen restricted.

HMRT 483X (CRN: 36810) - Social Justice (gen ed G) - 2 seats

Denise G Yull

T 5:50 PM - 8:50 PM

HMRT 486A (CRN: 35692) - Human Rights Research (gen ed N) - 2 seats

Mikhail Filippov

W 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

HMRT 488X (CRN: 36574) - Queer Crit Legal Theory & Law - 3 seats

Dara J Silberstein

MW 11:00 AM - 12:25 PM

This course will examine the ways in which conceptualizations of identity are defined and enforced through law. We will rely upon critical queer theories to investigate how court decisions and legislation limit identity formations in such a way that privileges some within the context of U.S. liberal capitalist society while "others" are marginalized. Students will be exposed to how the law conflates gender, sex and sexual orientation in ways intended to limit the fluidity among and between these categories. In addition to Queer Critical Theory, readings will include Critical Legal Theory, Critical Race Theory, Postcolonial Theory and Feminist Legal Theory to deconstruct the "normativity" adjudicated and legislated through our system of law.

HMRT 489X (CRN: 36604) - Building Public Memory - 2 seats

Instructor: Kerry Whigham

Schedule: W 1:40 PM - 4:40 PM

HMRT 489Y (CRN: 36602) - Transitional Justice - 2 seats

Maxim A Pensky

T 1:40 PM - 4:40 PM

HMRT 495 - Internship

Alexandra S Moore

Permission Only - contact amoore@binghamton.edu if you have an internship lined up and are seeking academic credit

HMRT 496 (CRN: 31787) - Human Rights Capstone (may be taken for 1-2 credits)*

*** capstone for the minor**

David L Cingranelli

MW 9:40 AM - 10:40 AM

Permission Only – email amoore@binghamton.edu if you are completing the minor and want to be enrolled; be sure to include your B number and whether you prefer to take it for 1 or 2 credits.

HMRT 497 - Independent Study

Alexandra Moore; David L Cingranelli

Permission Only - contact amoore@binghamton.edu if you have a human rights research project in mind for an independent study