Human Rights Interdisciplinary

Minor

Human rights have become the moral language of today, the idiom in which we discuss our common humanity and weigh competing claims for resources, rights, and protections. The Human Rights Interdisciplinary (HRI) minor at UC Berkeley allows students to shape their education around coursework which investigates the legal, political, historical, economic, social, psychological, and representational dynamics of human rights.

Helping undergraduates explore issues via multiple forms of thought and media of expression—through literature as well as politics, journalism as well as law, film as well as anthropology—the HRI minor emphasizes the many different intellectual spaces in which human rights questions are currently being posed. In so doing, it encourages students to recognize how human rights are intertwined with fields as disparate as postcolonial literature and medical ethics, as well as with the more familiar fields of political science and international law.

Declaring the Minor

The department encourages students to meet with an HRI minor advisor early in their academic careers. Advisors will help craft a plan of study, review, discuss and approve elective courses for the minor.

Complete and submit the HRI Minor Declaration form (https://globalstudies.berkeley.edu/degree-programs/minor-programs/human-rights/) only if you have met the following requirements:

- Have met with a HRI minor advisor
- Have completed at least one course for the HRI minor with a grade of B or better, OR:
- Have completed at least two courses for the minor (not necessarily at UCB) with a minimum GPA of 2.0
- Not be in their final semester of undergraduate work

Students who have a strong interest in an area of study outside their major often decide to complete a minor program. These programs have set requirements.

General Guidelines

1. All minors must be declared before the first day of classes in your Expected Graduation Term (EGT). For summer graduates, minors must be declared prior to the first day of Summer Session A.
2. All upper-division courses must be taken for a letter grade.
3. A minimum of three of the upper-division courses taken to fulfill the minor requirements must be completed at UC Berkeley.
4. A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 is required in the upper-division courses to fulfill the minor requirements.

5. Courses used to fulfill the minor requirements may be applied toward the Seven-Course Breadth requirement, for Letters & Science students.
6. No more than one upper division course may be used to simultaneously fulfill requirements for a student’s major and minor programs.
7. All minor requirements must be completed prior to the last day of finals during the semester in which the student plans to graduate. If students cannot finish all courses required for the minor by that time, they should see a College of Letters & Science adviser.
8. All minor requirements must be completed within the unit ceiling. (For further information regarding the unit ceiling, please see the College Requirements tab.)

Students are eligible to declare (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdbNtd3kordwLHd8Tv6v5vNlZjad0AQ9i4un7k19ypL9HGQ/viewform/) when they:

- Have completed at least one course for the HRI minor with a grade of B or better, OR:
- Have completed at least two courses for the minor (not necessarily at UCB) with a minimum GPA of 2.0;
- Not be in their final semester of undergraduate work

Requirements

Select one core course from the following list of classes:

- HISTORY C187 The History and Practice of Human Rights 4
- L & S C140V The History and Practice of Human Rights [4]
- GLOBAL 173 International Human Rights 4
- LEGALST 154 Human Rights, Research & Practice 4

Select four courses from the Human Rights Interdisciplinary minor course list.

One course - of the five required for the HRI minor - may be replaced by completing a 3 or 4 unit internship with a human rights organization. Please consult with an HRI minor advisor if you are interested in the internship option.

HRI Minor Courses

The courses found on the HRI webpage (http://live-global-studies.pantheon.berkeley.edu/degree-programs/minor-programs/human-rights/) may be counted in any semester they are offered. There may be other courses available on campus that are suitable for the minor, however, such courses will require a submission of a curriculum petition form and a copy of the syllabus to the HRI minor advisor. Note: Special topics courses require approval by an HRI minor advisor.