Southern Methodist University
MASTER OF LIBERAL STUDIES
Curricular Field Concentrations

Human Rights and Social Justice

Curriculum Description

SMU offers a rich setting for the study of peace, justice and human rights. Students will explore local and world problems related to militarism, political violence and repression, social, gender and racial equality, human rights, conflict resolution, environmental destruction, poverty, and hunger. This interdisciplinary approach to human rights and social justice philosophies of nonviolence and strategies for community and cultural empowerment. This concentration is not designed to be a professional or vocational credential, but rather to enrich the student’s knowledge and understanding of this curricular field of study.

Courses from departments at SMU other than Liberal Studies may be selected with the permission of both departments on a space-available basis (maximum of 6 credit hours). Non-GLS courses must be “in the spirit” of the Liberal Studies Degree Program with the approval of the Program Director and Department Chair. Independent Study courses may also be designed with designated faculty members (maximum of 6 credit hours) to supplement MLS course offerings, with the approval of the Program Director and Department Chair. The self-designed concentration will appear on the final transcript of record.

Students may participate in appropriate study abroad experiences, such as those offered in France and Italy and other sites through the Master of Liberal Studies program. A study tour may count toward the concentration electives.

Format

Students who select a Human Rights and Social Justice Concentration must complete the following:

- 36 credit hours (required for overall MLS degree)
- The 3 credit hour introductory required course: The Human Experience
- 3 credit hour designated writing intensive course (not part of the concentration)
- 6 elective courses related to the designated concentration (determined by the student and faculty member)
- 6 plus credit hour thesis or 3 credit hour capstone project
- A maximum of 2 Human Rights travel experiences will count toward this concentration
COURSES, Human Rights and Social Justice

BHSC 6301 Sexual Minorities: Issues in GLBT Communities
BHSC 6307 The Rise of Complex Societies
BHSC 6314 Native American Heritage
BHSC 6331 Psychology of Hate
BHSC 6363 The Immigrant Experience
BHSC 7351 Religion and Dispute Resolution: Florence Italy (study abroad)
FNAR 6302 The Black Aesthetic in the Visual Arts
FNAR 6313 Contemporary Art
HUMN 6311 Objectivity and Bias in News
HUMN 6315 Gender and Sex in Archeology
HUMN 6320 Jewish American Literature
HUMN 6321 International Humanitarian Aid in a Post Cold War World
HUMN 6326 Indigenous Peoples’ Rights in a Global Economy
HUMN 6354 Remembering the 60s
HUMN 6375 History of the Freedom of Expression
HUMN 6390 Law and Literature
HUMN 6396 Literature and Culture of Disability
HUMN 7208 How Lawyers See the World
HUMN 7312 Islam State and Society
HUMN 7315 Religions of the East
HUMN 7320 Lesbian and Gay Literature
HUMN 7335 The Myths of Our Time
HUMN 7350 Special Topics: American Activism 1960-1980
HUMN 7360 Sex, Death and Identity in China
SCCL 6308 Ecology in Balance: People and Planet
SCCL 6335 Biological Man
SOSC 6300 Human Rights Field Experience: RWANDA (study abroad)
SOSC 6301 Terrorism and Torture
SOSC 6302 Nazi Germany and the Holocaust
SOSC 6309 The Struggle for Human Rights
SOSC 6311 Seminar in Dallas History
SOSC 6313 Native Americans and Young American Republic
SOSC 6314 Living through the American Revolution
SOSC 6320 The Transatlantic Slave Trade
SOSC 6325 Blacks in the City
SOSC 6327 The Family and the Law
SOSC 6332 Ideas Shaping the American Character I
SOSC 6333 Ideas Shaping the American Character II
SOSC 6337 Texas and Tejanos: Seminar on Mexican-American History
SOSC 6340 The Enduring South: Southern Society since WW II
SOSC 6342 America’s Defining Moment: The American Civil War and Reconstruction
SOSC 6353 Women in US History
SOSC 6355 American Enraged: From Integration to Watergate
SOSC 6356 Civil Rights: The Unfinished Revolution
SOSC 6359 The Use (and Misuse) of Power in Politics
SOSC 6367 Comparative Revolutions: An Historical Perspective
SOSC 6374 Social and Cultural History of Spanish-Speaking Peoples
SOSC 6389 The Spanish Civil War
SOSC 6399 The History of Mexico
SOSC 7100/7305 Special Topics in Human Rights
SOSC 7316/7317 Field Studies
SOSC 7302 Studies at Oxford University: War and Diplomacy in Europe, 1815-Present
SOSC 7303 In the Camps: Historical Field Trip to Poland
SOSC 7305 Special Topics in Human Rights: The Holocaust
SOSC 7322 Women and the American Experience, Part 1
SOSC 7324 The Impact of the Arab Spring on Israel and the Middle East
SOSC 7351 Gender in a Global Society: Tradition and Change
SOSC 7355 The History of Racial Thinking to 1850