

# 2016 Institute for the Study of Human Rights Summer Program

**Session 1(D):**  
 May 23– July 1

**Session 2(Q):**  
 July 5 – August 12

- Introduction to Human Rights
- International Human Rights Movement: Past, Present and Future
- Women, Gender, and Political Violence
- Displacement and Forced Migration
- International Human Rights Law
- Human Rights and Visual Culture
- Human Rights and Global Economic Justice

## Summer Courses in Human Rights

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights and the School of Professional Studies at Columbia University offer 4000-level human rights summer courses for advanced undergraduate and graduate students. The two 6-week sessions take place from May 23 – July 1, 2016 and July 5 – August 12, 2016.

The program emphasizes the interaction between human rights theory and practice and offers students the opportunity to explore human rights both inside and outside the classroom.

## Human Rights Summer Certification Program

In addition to taking individual courses, students may earn a four-course summer certification of professional achievement. The certification program is ideal for professionals, graduate

students, and advanced undergraduate students wishing to further their knowledge and understanding of human rights.

To complete the certification, students must take Introduction to Human Rights, International Human Rights Law and two elective human rights courses.

## Events and Activities in New York City

Students have the opportunity to learn from human rights practitioners through in-class lectures, site visits, and meetings.

Throughout the summer, students are also invited to attend film screenings, including the Human Rights Watch Film Festival, social events, museum visits, trainings, performances, and other events related to human rights in New York City.

## **Session D: May 23 – July 1**

### **Introduction to Human Rights**

This course will provide a wide-ranging survey of conceptual foundations and issues in contemporary human rights. The class will examine the philosophical origins of human rights, contemporary debates, the evolution of human rights, key human rights documents, and the questions of human rights enforcement. This course will examine specific civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and various thematic topics in human rights.

### **International Human Rights Movement: Past, Present, Future**

The course will address the evolution of the international human rights movement and on the NGOs that drive the movement on the international, regional and domestic levels. Sessions will highlight the experiences of major human rights NGOs and will address topics including strategy development, institutional representation, research methodologies, partnerships, networks, venues of engagement, campaigning, fundraising and, perhaps most importantly, the fraught and complex debates about adaptation to changing global circumstances.

### **Women, Gender, and Political Violence**

This course explores how women's experiences of violence in conflict are guided by traditional patriarchal views of sexuality and sexual orientation, and gender, among other variables. This course furthermore demonstrates how this violence demands appropriations of and violence against women's sexuality in ways that mediate against their realization of human rights. The course will explore a wide range of women's experiences of violence in conflict, including: how women's sexuality is equated to their agencies in their everyday lives; the relationship between domestic violence in the private/home space and the violence of war in the public space; how the rape of women is used to decipher and forge the borders/boundaries of imagined, emerging nations, as in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda; debates on women terrorists, suicide bombers, and freedom fighters; and sexual violence against women in the U.S. military both in terms of patriarchal discomfort with women who identify in ways that are not cis-gender.

### **Displacement and Forced Migration**

This course will analyze the changing terrain of forced migration. Its focus will be on the systemic nature of recent crises, scrutinizing both their root causes and the challenges faced by the myriad of international, regional, national and local actors seeking to respond to it. The readings will draw both on the academic and the policy literature, emphasizing how a human rights perspective contributes to our understanding the fundamental challenges that lie ahead. The course will look at the theoretical arguments for accepting refugees from a rights perspective and show how these understandings have been embedded in international laws, norms and structures. It will survey how national governments have developed responses intended to meet these obligations as they also weigh national security and electoral concerns in the development of their policies.

# Summer Human Rights Courses

## **Session Q: July 5 – August 12**

### **International Human Rights Law**

This course introduces the fundamental concepts and problems of public international law. What are the origins of international law? Is international law really law? Who is governed by it? How are treaties interpreted? What is the relationship between international law and domestic law? We examine the interplay between law and international politics, in particular with reference to international human rights, humanitarian law, the use of force, and international criminal prosecutions. No prior knowledge of international law is required.

### **Human Rights and Visual Culture**

This course examines the relationship between visual culture and human rights. It considers a wide range of visual media (photography, painting, sculpture), as well as aspects of visibility (surveillance, profiling). We will use case studies ranging in time from the early modern period (practices in which the body was marked to measure criminality, for example), to the present day. Within this framework, we will study how aspects of visual culture have been used to advocate for human rights, as well as how images and visual regimes have been used to suppress human rights.

### **Human Rights and Global Economic Justice**

This seminar will introduce students to structures of global governance for development, trade, labor, finance, the environment, migration, and intellectual property and investigate their relationship with human rights. Students will learn about public, private, and mixed forms of governance, analyze the ethical and strategic perspectives of the various stakeholders and relate them to existing human rights norms. The course will examine the work of multilateral organizations such as the UN and the International Financial Institutions, as well as international corporate and non-governmental initiatives.