The Minor in Human Rights and Conflict Resolution (18 credits)

The interdisciplinary Minor in Human Rights and Conflict Resolution will explore the different ways in which peace and justice can be achieved. Core issues studied include: the legal, cultural, social, and political basis of human rights, the causes and nature of violence, societal conflict, and war between states, and methods of conflict management, peace implementation, and reconciliation on the personal, group, national, and international levels. The minor facilitates the discovery of ways to overcome conflict and work towards peace. Critical thinking and interdisciplinary approaches link issues of conflict, conflict resolution, and peace with human rights, the rule of law, and social justice.

Program Objectives:

Upon completing the requirements of the Minor in Human Rights and Conflict Resolution, students will be able to:

1. Analyze the evolution and implementation of human rights and the origin and dynamics of peace and conflict from different disciplinary perspectives, including political science, law, history, psychology, anthropology, communication, economics, philosophy, religious studies, social work, sociology, modern languages, and fine arts.

2. Discuss innovative answers to questions of human rights, conflict and peace. This includes, for example, making connections between all levels of conflict (individual, group, society, and international) and examining peace and human rights implementation across societies.

3. Synthesize approaches to human rights and conflict resolution that are presented in different disciplines. Students are encouraged to develop personal approaches to dealing with conflict resolution and human rights through academic learning, scholarly investigations, discussions with peers and faculty, and practical experiences (service learning and internships).

4. Participate actively in campus and community platforms related to human rights and conflict resolution.

Program Requirements:

1. POLS 215 or SOCL 201;
2. POLS 322 or 329;
3. Four courses (12 credits) chosen from the list of electives. Three of these courses must be taken at the 300-400 level;
4. Courses from three different disciplines must be represented in the 18 hours.
5. Graduation with Service Distinction is encouraged.
6. In addition to the courses listed below, certain study abroad seminars, independent studies, and special topics courses may also count toward the minor as determined by the director.

THE CURRICULUM IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The following course descriptions appear in appropriate sections throughout the catalog.

Core
POLS 215 Comparative and International Politics
POLS 322 Conflict and Peace Studies
POLS 329 International Human Rights
SOCL 201 Globalization and Society

Electives
ANTH 203 Cultural Anthropology
ANTH 309 The Refugee Experience
ENGL 304 WI: Creativity out of Conflict
ENGL 313 Literature and Social Issues
HIST 326 The Nazi State and the Holocaust
HIST 336 American Foreign Relations
HIST 341 The Long Civil Rights Movement
PHIL 304 Ethics and Current Value Questions
PHIL 337 Radical Evil and the Philosophy of Law
PHIL 386 Values and Postmodernity
POLS 323 American Foreign Policy
POLS 327 International Law & International Organizations
POLS 340 Might and Right Among Nations
POLS 307 Civil Liberties
POLS 410 Ethnic Conflict and Nationalism
POLS 450 Ethics in Government and Politics
PSYC 304 Social Psychology
SOCL 309 The Refugee Experience
SOCL 316 Racial and Ethnic Relations