

2017 Summer Program

ISHR's Human Rights Summer Program, developed in conjunction with the School of Professional Studies, emphasizes the interaction between human rights theory and practice and offers students the opportunity to explore human rights both inside and outside the classroom.

Throughout the summer, students are invited to attend discussions, trainings, performances, films, and other events that engage with the human rights community of New York City. Students also have the opportunity to learn from human rights practitioners through in-class guest lectures and optional site visits to human rights organizations.

The summer program is ideal for professionals, graduate students, and advanced undergraduate students wishing to further their knowledge and understanding of human rights. Courses are offered at the graduate level and academic credit is awarded. The summer term is divided into two 6-week sessions.

Previous coursework or knowledge of human rights is not required to enroll in the summer courses.

Human Rights Certification Program

In addition to taking individual courses, students may earn a four-course summer certification of professional achievement. Students in the certification program include those seeking to complement their training in other fields or disciplines, such as law, public health, fundraising, development, etc.; individuals with academic or professional experience in human rights wishing to obtain more specialized knowledge through graduate-level study; and students preparing for further graduate study. To complete the certification, students must complete the following requirements:

- ◆ Introduction to Human Rights
- ◆ International Human Rights Law
- ◆ Two elective human rights courses.

Students who successfully complete the 12 credit points of coursework with a grade of C or higher and obtain a minimum GPA of 3.0 will be awarded a certification of professional achievement.

The certification may be completed in a single summer or two consecutive summers. Students already enrolled in Columbia degree programs are not eligible to apply for the certification, but may still enroll in summer courses.



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ABOUT ISHR

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights (ISHR) was established in 1978 at Columbia University. ISHR is committed to its three core goals of providing excellent human rights education to Columbia students, fostering innovative interdisciplinary academic research, and offering its expertise in capacity building to human rights leaders, organizations, and universities around the world.

ISHR was the first academic center in the world to be founded on an interdisciplinary commitment to the study of human rights.

This remains one of ISHR's most distinctive features. We recognize that on a fundamental level, human rights research must transcend traditional academic boundaries, departments, and disciplines, reaching out to the practitioners' world in the process, to address the ever-increasing complexities of human rights in a globalized world. ISHR's emphases on interdisciplinary, engagement, and globalism draw from and complement the strengths that have long characterized intellectual life at Columbia.

WHY HUMAN RIGHTS

I have always been interested in human rights and wanted to have a career in human rights law. I felt that this would be a great program for me to explore human rights further and ensure that it was really the career path I wanted to pursue.

- **Yolanda Chitohwa**, an attorney who joined the program to complement her legal background.

I've had a long standing interest in the international human rights field, and wanted the education to supplement my work experience in women's rights and social justice philanthropy.

- **Maryann Jacob**, a full time professional and Human Rights Certification recipient.

I came to the Human Rights Summer Program at Columbia to fill a knowledge gap. I am researching human rights in Sudan. Columbia University was the best place that offered relevant coursework.

- **Alexander Sieber**, a student in the Human Rights Studies M.A. Program and former participant in the Summer Human Rights Program.

2017 SUMMER COURSES

Session D: May 22 – June 30

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.

NGOs and the Human Rights Movement: Strategies, Successes & Challenges

The human rights movement is one of the most successful social justice movements of our time, establishing universal principles that govern how states should treat citizens and non-citizens. The movement strengthens, and is strengthened by, a complex web of institutions, laws, and norms that constitute a functioning global system that builds on itself progressively, animated by strong NGOs. 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.

Social Media and Human Rights: Actors, Advocacy and Analytics

This course examines how changes in information and communications technology have, over the past two decades, fundamentally transformed the practices of civil society actors engaged with human rights issues. New communications tools such as Twitter, blogs, and Facebook have changed the ways that organizations communicate with their followers and seek to influence public debate. The increasing accessibility of analytic tools for researching and visualizing changing patterns of human rights abuse has empowered groups to better understand and respond more forcefully to these issues. Indeed, the use of social media as a communications tool has made it a data source for those monitoring and analyzing patterns of activity, in ways that draw increasingly on the techniques of big data analysis.

My favorite part of the program is the in-class discussion. The discussions are challenging, provocative, and engaging and there is no substitute for learning in this way. In my mind, it's the best way to delve into a topic. - **Maryann Jacob**, student in the Summer Human Rights Program

Session Q: July 3 – August 11

International Human Rights Law

This course introduces the fundamental concepts and problems of international law. What are the origins of modern human rights law? What is the substance of this law, who is obligated by it, and how is it enforced? The course will cover the major international human rights treaties and mechanisms and consider some of today's most significant human rights issues and controversies. While the topics are necessarily law-related, the course will assume no prior exposure to legal studies.

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.

Women, Gender, and Political Violence

This course explores how women's experiences of violence in conflict are guided by traditional patriarchal views of femininity, and furthermore how this violence influences their agencies and their realization of human rights. Through academic texts, documents produced by the U.N. and NGOs globally, academic experts, and documentaries, we will explore a wide range of women's experiences of violence in conflict, including: 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.

PROFESSOR PROFILE: UCHE EWELUKWA



Professor Uché Ewelukwa Ofodile taught International Human Rights Law in the 2017 Summer Human Rights Program. She teaches law at the University of Arkansas School of Law in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Her courses focus on a broad range of topics including Public International Law, International Trade & Investment Law, Intellectual Property Law, International Food Law, and Business & Human Rights.

Professor Ewelukwa Ofodile is an active member of the American Bar Association Section of International Law (ABASIL) where she currently serves as a Senior Advisor of the International Human Rights Committee, a Vice-Chair of the International Investment & Development Committee, and is the Immediate Past Co-Chair of the Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility. She is also the Secretary-General of the African Society of International Law.

Professor Ewelukwa Ofodile has received numerous global awards in recognition of her work including fellowship awards from the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Law and the Albert Einstein's Institution for Non-Violent Sanctions. She was the winner of the 2009 Human Rights Essay Award from the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law American University Washington College of Law.

I now consider human rights central to any career trajectory and will strive to use a human rights approach in all my work, whether that be with government, corporate social responsibility or human rights organizations in particular. - Jessica Dalton, student in the Human Rights Studies M.A. Program and a Summer Program participant

PROFESSOR PROFILE:
LOUIS BICKFORD



Professor Bickford taught NGOs and the Human Rights Movement: Strategies, Successes and Challenges in the 2017 Summer Human Rights Program. He also teaches during the regular academic year at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Columbia University. Professor Bickford is the CEO and founder of Memria.org. He formerly directed the Global Human Rights program at the Ford Foundation, where he supported the international human rights movement and worked closely with human rights organizations and activists in every world region.

Question: Why do you teach in the Summer Program?

Answer: *I teach because, first, I love to teach. It is a great way to discuss interesting ideas with interesting people. Second, teaching helps me with my work by keeping me on top of developments in the human rights field. I like addressing hard questions about real world situations as well as theory.*

Question: What draws you to this program?

Answer: *My favorite part is quite simply the students. I feel like I'm getting the best possible students, and I can say that with some authority because I've taught at four New York colleges with MA Programs. I like the fact that many of my students at Columbia are really sharp on a whole set of questions related to human rights.*

Question: How did guest speakers contribute to the classroom discussion?

Answer: *I like to bring in practitioners from the coal face of human rights. This year it worked out well because we had a combination of films and professionals that were also featured in the film. Hearing from human rights professionals gives students another voice to connect directly with. It creates a sense of what the field looks like. A lot of this stuff is theoretical and this makes it more real. It also creates role models for students.*

GUEST SPEAKERS

Guest speakers bring a practical perspective to class discussions. I am always curious about the policy implementations of human rights demands and to discuss how human rights norms are being translated into programming is highly stimulating to students. I find it particularly helpful to have former students of mine come to speak to classes about their current experiences with making human rights a reality — in government, civil-society, and corporate contexts. Learning from alumni is a great motivation to continue to work for the promotion of human rights, when many times the odds seem overwhelming.-
Professor Rainer Braun



Guest speaker Carroll Bogert [R], President of The Marshall Project and former Deputy Executive Director for External Relations at Human Rights Watch, with students in the International Human Rights Movement course.

The Human Rights program is different from other studies because it focuses not only on the theory and the scholarly aspect, but also on real-world application. Our class was a mix of students from different professional and academic backgrounds, and we learned as much from each other during class discussions as we did from the readings. We also had frequent guest speakers-- our professor's colleagues and other experts who were able to answer questions about the practical manifestation of human rights in field work. The coursework, while weighty, never felt inapplicably abstract. - **Erin Tolman**, student in the Summer Human Rights Program.

EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

University of New South Wales Law School

Students in the Summer Human Rights Program attended two human rights advocacy panels, hosted by the University of New South Wales Law School. The panels included practitioners working on a range of human rights issues at organizations such as Human Rights Watch, UN Women, CoreLab, the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment, and the International Center for Transitional Justice.

SITE VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES' MISSION TO THE UN

Students in the Summer Human Rights Program visited the U.S. Mission to the United Nations for a discussion with Kelly L. Razzouk, Human Rights Adviser at the Mission. Ms. Razzouk discussed priority human rights issue areas and U.S. Permanent Representative Nikki Healey's diplomatic work. Students also had the opportunity to ask questions about the United States' engagement with the United Nations system on human rights.



ISHR students at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations .



I feel confident in the education I have received through the Human Rights Program at Columbia SPS. My experiences both inside and outside the classroom have opened doors in my personal and professional life and I am very grateful for being a part of this amazing program and opportunity.— Felicia Slogoski, student in the Summer Human Rights Program

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH FILM FESTIVAL

Students in the Summer Human Rights Program attended documentaries, focusing on various human rights topics, as part of the Human Rights Watch (HRW) annual film festival. The HRW Film Festival combines powerful storytelling with social and political activism, acting as an effective tool for public awareness and change. The film festival selects 40 documentaries per year to screen in 20 different cities. This June's New York Festival screened films featuring broad themes such as transitional justice, police brutality, climate change and environmental degradation, women's rights, digital activism, rights of refugees and asylum seekers, domestic violence, rights of persons with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ rights, among others.



A documentary titled "Home Truth" tells the story of Jessica Lenahan (second from left) and her legal battle to ensure the rights of survivors of domestic violence in the United States.

PROFESSOR PROFILE: RAINER BRAUN



Professor Braun taught Human Rights and Global Economic Justice in the 2017 Human Rights Summer Program. He also teaches during the regular academic year at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University.

Question: What strikes you the most about students in the Human Rights Summer Program?

Answer: *Their dedication. Despite all the distractions of New York City in the summer, our students decide to dedicate their 'down time' of the year to studying how to make the world a better place — in particular for people often far removed from them: physically, politically, and culturally. This drive for social improvements combined with their intellectual curiosity shows in the quality of their research, despite the fact that they had half the time to work on their papers than their peers during the regular semesters.*

Question: What is your advice for students and professionals, considering joining the program?

Answer: *Be honest to yourself what you want to learn about. What is the area you want to develop expertise in? What injustice bugs you the most when you wake up in the morning? The sooner you identify the issue you want to develop expertise in, the easier it is to navigate the complexity of human rights studies. If everybody around you talks about human trafficking, but you want to work on the right to housing — work on the right to housing. Follow your passion, don't follow trends (other people are already doing that...). There is not a single human rights issue that has been exhaustively discussed. There is work to be done on all rights.*

PROFESSOR PROFILE:
TED PERLMUTTER



Professor Perlmutter taught Social Media and Human Rights in the 2107 Summer Human Rights Program. He also teaches during the regular academic year at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Professional Studies at Columbia University.

Question: What do you like the most about the Summer program?

Answer: *There is an intensity and focus that can be achieved when classes meet twice a week. It is a teaching environment that makes deeper discussion and more authentic exchange of ideas possible. It also enables me as a professor to get to know the students and to shape the coursework around their needs and interests.*

Question: How did guest speakers contribute to the classroom discussion?

Answer: *The limits of what you can do, and the challenge of conflicting obligations, become much more compelling when described by someone who has been working for months in a refugee camp in Juba, South Sudan or for years trying to tamp down Arab-Kurdish conflicts in Northern Iraq. The language of human rights, which can on occasion seem to be a “disembodied poetics” when discussed exclusively from a legal or normative frame, feels much more tangible when you hear how decisions get made on the ground.*

Professor Perlmutter took special interest in each student's area of study, and went out of his way to facilitate connections that would be of professional, academic, and personal interest. When I mentioned that I would be studying in the Middle East this summer, he connected me with colleagues who were working in northern Iraq. He helped me orient a research project and guided me through a thesis proposal that would incorporate field research in Iraq. His class on migration and displacement, and his help honing my interests and research, has been invaluable for my academic career. - Erin Tolman, student in the Summer Human Rights Program

CAREERS IN HUMAN RIGHTS DISCUSSION



Students from the Summer Human Rights Program discussing future careers in human rights.

Human Rights Studies M.A. students and ISHR staff shared their work experience on a variety of human rights issues at intergovernmental, educational, and civil society organizations in the United States and abroad. Panelists discussed the nature of their work and offered practical advice on how to identify and prepare for these opportunities.

HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMER PROGRAM SOCIAL

The ISHR Education Program hosted a happy hour for students in the summer program.

Students had an opportunity to meet fellow summer students, discuss their human rights interests, and mingle over refreshments.



Students from the Summer Human Rights Program mingle during a social event.