



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.

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 The Psychology of Hate**
- BHSC 6363 The Immigrant Experience**
- 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 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**
- SCCL 6308 Ecology in Balance: People and Planet**
- SCCL 6335 Biological Man**
- SOSC 7100/7305 Special Topics in Human Rights**
- SOSC 7316/7317 Field Studies**
- 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 6340 The Enduring South: Southern Society since WW II**
- 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 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 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**