The Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College honors the distinguished legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. Our mission is to educate students in public policy and human rights and to promote creative dialogue through seminars, conferences, and public events.

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UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM IN HUMAN RIGHTS

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”
— Universal Declaration of Human Rights

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UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM IN HUMAN RIGHTS

The Human Rights Program is a 15-credit undergraduate Minor open to students in all disciplines. Students also have an option to receive a Certificate in Human Rights by taking 9 additional credits (for a total of 24 credits).

Students in the program combine academic study with hands-on experience through practical internships. Leading human rights experts from around the world meet with students at Roosevelt House, the former home of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, where the Human Rights Program is based.

A background in human rights is excellent preparation for a career in government, law, journalism, social work or a nongovernmental or intergovernmental agency. Students who complete the undergraduate Human Rights Program may go directly into some entry-level positions, or pursue graduate studies in human rights or a related profession.

MINOR REQUIREMENTS: (15 credits)

1. Introduction to Human Rights (HR 200) This course explores the development and implementation of human rights norms including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. The course is open to all Hunter undergraduates and is an excellent introduction to concepts of global citizenship.
2. Human Rights Internship (HR 250) A practical internship with a nongovernmental organization or agency that is working on one or more human rights issues.
3. Three elective courses related to human rights and chosen from HRP-developed special topic courses, new each semester, and/or from an approved list of cognates (see list online), no more than one of which can be your major department.
* Note that minors may not share credits.

CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS: (24 credits)

* All of the requirements of the Minor, plus:

1. The Internship Seminar (HR 260) An overview of the human rights movement, this course is designed for students who have completed or are currently completing an internship.
2. Capstone Seminar Senior Thesis
3. One additional elective course related to human rights and chosen from HRP-developed special topic courses, new each semester, and/or from an approved list of cognates (see list online), no more than two of which can be your major department.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Hunter College offers other unique opportunities to its students. These options are designed to enrich the student experience in the human rights curriculum.

1. Human Rights Courses
   In addition to its own core and elective courses, the interdisciplinary program offers courses from a number of different academic departments, including political science, sociology, anthropology and history.

2. Internships
   Internships give students the opportunity to understand the human rights movement in practical terms. They may spend time working with national NGOs, government agencies, nonprofits, think tanks, or advocacy groups. Some positions carry compensation; others are voluntary.

3. Human Rights Events
   The program brings in leading figures in the human rights movement to Roosevelt House for talks, brown-bag lunches and other events.

POLICY AND CURRICULUM COMMITTEE:

Deborah Tolman, Chair (Women & Gender Studies)
Manu Bhagavan (History)
Martha Bragin (Silberman School of Social Work)
Marc Edelman (Anthropology)
Roseanne Flores (Psychology)
Jessica Neuwirth, Program Director and Distinguished Lecturer

PROGRAM STAFF: HRP@HUNTER.CUNY.EDU
Jessica Neuwirth, Program Director and Distinguished Lecturer
JoAnne Vellardita, Program Manager
Katrina Avilla, Program Associate
Hector Perez, Program Assistant

PREREQUISITES:

To enroll in the Human Rights Minor (15 credits) or Certificate (24 credits), a student must have completed HR 200 with a grade of at least a B and have a cumulative G.P.A. of at least 3.0.