

# GLOBAL RIGHTS STUDIES

**DEGREE MODULES AVAILABLE:** Honors Specialization, Specialization

Our program in Global Rights Studies focuses on rights as a set of contested claims in the world. In this program, students learn how the universalisation of rights—as in the promotion of human rights—is inevitably and paradoxically exclusionary of persons and populations. They examine how regimes of rights law and protection are built on political bases, resulting from historical struggle and the institution of power relations, exemplified in particular through the claims to rights made by women, colonised peoples, and displaced persons. Accordingly, students learn how it is that rights are claimed not through law in any static sense but, rather, through actions and movements in which rights are claimed and realised.

## **THE GLOBAL RIGHTS STUDIES PROGRAM EXAMINES SUCH ISSUES AS:**

- Politics of the rights to have rights
- Discriminations in laws of citizenship
- Feminist challenges to the masculine subject of rights
- Indigenous rights to self-determination
- The lack of universalisable justice in rights discourses
- Territorialisations of rights
- “the human” as an oppressive subject
- Rights to be political

For more information, please contact the Director of the Centre for Global Studies through the website: [huronatwestern.ca/programs/arts-social-science/centre-global-studies/](http://huronatwestern.ca/programs/arts-social-science/centre-global-studies/)

## **SAMPLE CORE COURSES IN: GLOBAL RIGHTS STUDIES**

### **CGS 3512F/G - ENGAGING GLOBAL HUMAN DISPLACEMENT**

This course investigates approaches to engaging international and internal displacement and studies the conditions under which displaced persons are identified and subjectified as refugees, illegal migrants, asylum seekers, or bogus refugees, respectively. Focus will be given to legal, political, and humanitarian practices, analysing methods of protection, assistance, detention, and criminalisation.

### **INDIGENOUS STUDIES 3722F/G - INDIGENOUS LEGAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES**

Political and legal issues are inseparable in contemporary examinations of land use, self-determination, governance, individual and community rights. This course will examine the legal institutions and practices of traditional First Nations cultures as well as contemporary practice.

### **CGS 3514F/G - GLOBAL RESISTANCE MOVEMENTS**

An examination of the political, social and cultural foundations of resistance movements that claim a transnational, global or international scale. Cases may include: anti-globalization, environmentalism, indigenous people's rights, women's rights, human rights, Fair Trade, and alternative trade organizations.

### **GSWS 2270A/B - WOMEN, LAW AND SOCIAL CHANGE**

How does the law affect women? What important legal changes have women fought for and achieved? What is the relationship between law and social change? Topics in a national or global context may include citizenship and discrimination, reproduction, health care, violence, sexual assault and harassment, pornography, prostitution, divorce, and marriage.

### **CGS 3518F/G - NON-STATE PEOPLES AND STATE FORMATIONS**

This course considers relations between sovereign states and self-determining non-state peoples. The course provides an interdisciplinary examination of the evasions, negotiations and resistances that characterize non-state peoples' responses to attempts to consolidate state authority in colonial and post-colonial settings.

### **PHILOSOPHY 3820F/G - GLOBALIZATION AND THEORIES OF JUSTICE**

This course subjects globalization, as an economic, political and cultural phenomena, to critical scrutiny, using tools provided by theories of justice. Topics considered may include: sweatshops; world hunger; refugee rights; the claim to universality in human rights discourse; and the ethics of militant protest to back demands for global justice.

### **CGS 3523F/G - LAW IN GLOBAL RELATIONS AND LANGUAGES OF POWER**

This course examines struggles to define subjects of law and establish just rules of behaviour between them within global contexts. Students will examine and critically evaluate often conflicting efforts of movement, actors, institutions, and social groups to make lawful ideals or, alternatively, to delegitimise the world views of others.



### **GABRIEL NDAYISHIMIYE**

Globalization Studies '20

*"I learned much about grassroots organizing in the Centre for Global Studies. Grassroots organizing places emphasis on ordinary people working hand in hand to mobilize resources that are, in return, used to address critical social issues facing their community. I have applied all the knowledge gained through my undergraduate studies to build LivenBooks, a volunteer-run independent nonprofit book publisher based in London, Ontario."*