

# GLOBAL RIGHTS ACTIONS

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

Our program in Global Rights Actions focuses on providing students with unique, responsible, and timely approaches to the critical study and support of actions taken by persons and peoples to establish and secure rights. Students confront the fact that most universalist principles, laws, and approaches to protect rights, paradoxically and typically, are exclusionary in character, particularly in the form of “human rights.” Instead, they learn how struggles for rights are inevitably sites of social innovation, in which people seek both self-determination and the right to determine who and what they are. Students gain understanding and confidence to collaborate with those individuals and groups who experience marginalisation in their rights claims, who face challenges in asserting autonomy, and who seek self-determination on world-wide bases. It is a program of study into the inescapable struggle for the right to have rights.

## **THE GLOBAL RIGHTS ACTIONS 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 Social Innovation through our website: [uronu.ca/programs/arts-social-science/global-social-innovation](http://uronu.ca/programs/arts-social-science/global-social-innovation)



## **GABRIEL NDAYISHIMIYE**

Globalization Studies '20

*“I learned much about grassroots organizing in the Centre. 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.”*

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

### **CGS 3512: 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 3722: 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 3514: 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 2270: 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 3518: 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 3820: GLOBALIZATION AND THEORIES OF JUSTICE**

This course subjects globalization, as an economic, political, and cultural phenomenon, 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 3523: 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 movements, actors, institutions, and social groups to make lawful ideals or, alternatively, to delegitimise the world views of others.

