

Information Sheet for BIS 490: Washington, D.C. Human Rights Senior Seminar

THE COURSE:

The Washington, D.C. Human Rights Seminar (BIS 490/BIS 403) is part of the human rights emphasis in the Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences program and will be taught as a senior seminar for the academic year 2007-2008. The course was created by Professor Robert Schultz and has been a part of the curriculum since 1990. The course focuses on the construction of human rights policy at the national and international levels and fulfills requirements in Society, Ethics, and Human Behavior; in Global Studies; and in American Studies.

FORMAT:

The course is composed of four elements: first, extensive reading in August and early September; second, two full-day workshops on campus (Sept. 7 & 8); third, six and a half intensive days of seminars and briefings in Washington, D.C. (Sept. 9-15); and fourth, a policy research paper that is due in early December. The D.C. portion includes briefings by government and non-governmental organizations, foreign embassies, think tanks, and human rights activists.

SCHEDULE:

- April 4: applications due
- April 12: final selection of participants
- May 1: first \$275 deposit due
- June 1: second \$275 deposit due
- August 1: Syllabus and reading assignments available
- September 7 and 8 on campus (8:30 am - 4:30 pm)
- September 9-15 at the William Penn House conference center in Washington, D.C. (The D.C. portion officially ends at noon on the 15th; students are free to remain in the area and return to Seattle at their own discretion.)
- December 7: Policy research paper due

COST:

- room and board at conference center, program fees (estimated \$550)
- round trip airfare to D.C. (variable)
- texts and materials (approximately \$100)
- tuition (variable--depends on number of credits for fall quarter)
- incidentals and extra day(s) in D.C. (variable)

STUDENT EVALUATIONS:

- ❖ “This was the most intense, inspirational experience of my life. It is going to change me forever”
- ❖ “I would recommend this class to anyone. It is engaging, philosophical, thought-provoking, deep, meaningful, and tough.”
- ❖ “This is a fantastic course. Having a wide range of speakers with differing views was wonderful.”

COURSE THEME:

Human rights have emerged in the last 50 years as a critical normative dimension of international politics and policy. This course will examine the underlying philosophical, political, and social assumptions of human rights, especially in the context of the process that forms public policy in U.S. institutions. Students will engage questions such as the following: What is the relation between international human rights and domestic U.S. rights? Who are the main actors—governmental, non-governmental—who set human rights policy? What are the current issues that challenge the human rights agenda in U.S. domestic and foreign policy?

THE D.C. EXPERIENCE:

Students will be engaged in intensive seminars and briefings with a variety of institutions and policy makers at a variety of levels. During the day we'll walk and use Washington's excellent subway system to visit the Pentagon, the State Department, Congressional offices, and policy institutions of various political orientations. For example, we'll attend briefings at institutions such as the Friends Committee on National Legislation (the "Quaker Lobby"), Amnesty International, the U.S. Institute of Peace, the Holocaust Memorial Museum, the United Nations, the Heritage Foundation, the Brookings Institution, and hear from a long and distinguished list of lobbyists and activists. The week is an intense group experience and students will need to be ready to focus and engage for the entire time. There will be very little spare time for sightseeing; it is strongly recommended that students who wish to do so extend their stay in the city.

THE CONFERENCE CENTER:

The William Penn House, 515 East Capitol Street, in Washington, D.C. is a Quaker hospitality and seminar center on Capitol Hill, in a residential area five blocks from the Capitol Building and Supreme Court. For over a quarter-century, the William Penn House has been a place where "frank, off-the-record discussions with men and women who have committed themselves to government service provide a first-hand encounter with the political scene. Questioning Congressional staff members and department officials on national commitments reveals both the complexity of decision making and the potential for citizen action." Our lodging and most of our meals will be at the conference center, as well as most of our evening sessions. The accommodations and meals are basic but sufficient.

THE INSTRUCTOR:

Assistant Professor Ron Krabill teaches in the Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences program at UWB. His courses include topics such as social institutions and social change, the ethics of service, African Studies, and the sociology of media and politics, and he has published on the interactions of media and movements in apartheid and post-apartheid South Africa.

TO APPLY:

To apply for the program, fill out an Application Form and return to Ruth Honour (UW1-390) or Prof. Ron Krabill (UW2-326). Add codes will be provided at the appropriate time.

Washington, D.C. Human Rights Seminar

Application Form ❖ Due April 4, 2007

1. Name _____

2. Address _____

3. Phone _____ (day)

_____ (evening)

4. email _____

5. Place of birth, date of birth, and social security number (for security clearance to State Department and Pentagon).

6. Are you applying for a minor in Human Rights? _____

7. Expected graduation date (month/year)? _____

8. UWB courses relevant to the Washington, D.C. Human Rights Seminar

Course #

Title

(OVER)

9. Are there any conflicts that would prevent you from attending any of the sessions, on campus or in Washington, D.C.? _____ If yes, explain:

10. Do you have any dietary restrictions that cannot be reasonably accommodated in a public facility? _____ If yes, explain:

11. The program is a week of intense work in groups that includes timely movement between activities around the city of Washington, D.C. using a variety of transportation modes. Some days the schedule runs from early morning until late into the evening. Are there any medical conditions that would prevent you from fully participating in all the activities of the program? If yes, please explain.*

12. Post-graduation goals (if known):

13. What interests you in taking this course?

*A separate release form will need to be completed prior to the trip.

Return this application to Ruth Honour, UW1-390, or to Prof. Ron Krabill under the door of his office, UW2-326.