Peace, Justice and Human Rights

The interdisciplinary concentration in Peace, Justice and Human Rights offers students the opportunity to study the history, philosophy and critiques of the rights tradition, examine themes of human rights and justice in their local and international contexts, and apply philosophical, social scientific and ethical reasoning to real-world problems. The concentration can be taken in conjunction with any major, and courses are open both to concentrators and non-concentrators.

Courses open to freshmen this year are:

FALL 2015:
PEAC 101: Introduction to Peace, Justice and Human Rights, Prof. Stauffer
PEAC 203: Children’s Rights/Children’s Liberation, Prof. Rosenblatt
PEAC 207: Cruising Home: Queer Kinship in Theory and Practice, Prof. Pryor
PEAC 219: The One, The Two and the Many: Readings in Feminist Philosophy, Prof. Ben Shai

SPRING 2016:
PEAC 101: Introduction to Peace, Justice and Human Rights, Prof. Rosenblatt
PEAC 201: Applied Ethics of Peace, Justice and Human Rights, Prof. Stauffer
PEAC 2xx: Oral History and Activism, Prof. Balay
PEAC 2xx: Organizations, Missions and Constraints: Humanitarianism and Human Rights in Practice, Prof. Rosenblatt

* “2xx” means that the course number will be determined later.

The concentration is open to students in any major who wish to focus on topics such as:
- human rights and critical rights discourse (universalism, localism, relativism, formal equality, group and special rights categories, individual and state responsibility, critiques of the rights tradition);
- recovery from conflict and mass violence (reconciliation, restorative justice, reparations, truth commissions, cultural renewal, legal mechanisms);
- war, conflict, peace-keeping and peace-making (weapons, conflict resolution, just war, sustainable peace);
- globalization and global governance (sovereignty, trade and capital, global justice, international economic institutions, technology, the media, immigration);
- politics of life (medicine/health, environment);
- space and the built environment (links between rights, social justice and the building of urban spaces, policing urban areas, urban poor);
- technology and politics (technology and media, weaponry).

CURRICULUM
Three core courses are combined with three elective courses focused on a particular theoretical problem, geographical region, or comparative study, to expand or enhance the focus students pursue in their majors. Students will also learn to communicate about their studies across disciplinary boundaries, and will be encouraged to develop creative new perspectives on entrenched problems.
All concentrators are required to take three core courses: PEAC 101 Introduction to PJHR; PEAC 201 Applied Ethics of PJHR; and PEAC 395 Capstone Seminar in PJHR. Alternate courses may on occasion fulfill a core requirement.

Students are required to take three additional elective courses for the concentration. They will choose these courses in consultation with the concentration director, working out a plan that focuses the concentration regionally, conceptually, or around a particular substantive problem. A course does not have to appear on an existing list of electives or have "peace" or "justice" in its title to count toward the concentration. The aim is to articulate a focus that helps each student pursue her or his interests in PJHR.

The program also encourages students to take advantage of the many opportunities for enriching their academic work through independent research and/or internships, in both domestic and international settings.

DIRECTOR
Jill Stauffer, Assistant Professor of Philosophy
For more information, see http://www.haverford.edu/pjhr/