

**WEBSTER UNIVERSITY
CATALOG CHANGES**

TO: Office of Academic Affairs

FROM: Philosophy/International Human Rights A&S
DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM SCHOOL/COLLEGE

Note: This form is used to change specific curricular details on existing courses. The same form may be used to change multiple details for a single course. Please check the area(s) of the proposed change and supply the requested details. The effective date of these changes is usually Summer (the new Catalog date).

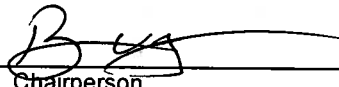
Please approve the catalog changes for the following: UG Grad courses:

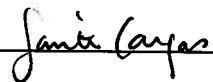
Course Number: HRTS 1500 Title: Current Problems in Human Rights

1. Change of Course TITLE:
To: _____
Effective Date: (Term & Year) _____
Reason/Comments: _____
2. Change of Course NUMBER:
From: HRTS 1500 To: HRTS 2500
Effective Date: (Term & Year) Spring 2009
Was previous course coded for General Education (if UG): _____
3. Change in CREDIT HOURS:
Present Credit Hours: _____ Proposed: _____
Effective Date: (Term and Year) _____
Reason/Comments: _____
4. Add a PREREQUISITE:
Prerequisite: HRTS 1100
Effective Date: (Term & Year) Spring 2009
Reason/Comments: _____
5. Delete a PREREQUISITE:
Delete: _____
Effective Date: (Term and Year) _____
Reason/Comments: _____

Is this course a pre-requisite for another course? If so, which?

Is this a required course for any programs? If so, which? HRTS major, HRTS minor, INTL major with emphasis in International Human Rights

Approved:  April 23, 2008
Chairperson Date

Approved:  4/28/08
Dean Date

Upon the approval of the Dean, this Form is sent to the Office of Academic Undergraduate Final Distribution Graduate

Affairs for processing:

Rev. 2006

Registrar
Chair, Curr. Cmt.
Academic Advising
Chair, Department
Dean
Academic Affairs

Registrar
Chair, Grad. Council
Chair, Department
Dean
Academic Affairs

Rationale for Catalog Change of HRTS 1500 to HRTS 2500

When the course was introduced, there was no HRTS major, no HRTS minor and no INTL emphasis in International Human Rights. We believed that students would benefit from an alternate to HRTS 1100, Introduction to Human Rights as a gateway to the study of International Human Rights. It has served that purpose, for some, but experience has shown that the overwhelming majority of students beginning a study of the subject prefer HRTS 1100.

When the major and minor were introduced (and, later, when the INTL emphasis was applied for and approved, the primary function of HRTS 1500 shifted: from an introduction to the subject matter to a deepening understanding of the subject matter through extended examination of a small number of current problems. This is reflected in the assessment documents developed by the Philosophy Department for the International Human Rights program which lists as one of its learning outcomes “Familiarity with a sampling of current and historical human rights problem areas.

Further, as the program grew, more students were taking both courses. Some instructors found it necessary to introduce, in HRTS 1500, material appeared valuable or necessary for those students who had not already taken HRTS 1100 but which overlapped material that those who had taken HRTS 1100 were already familiar. While overlap among courses – especially where the overlap occurs in differing contexts – has some educational advantages, there was probably too much. Making HRTS 1100 a prerequisite for HRTS 2500 should eliminate that problem.

Further, and probably more important, is the role the course plays in developing the ability of students to find and evaluate information regarding current human rights problems. Increasingly, this has been and will be a dominant feature of the course. It is the judgment of the Philosophy Department that skill in finding and evaluating information regarding current human rights problems should be added to the educational outcomes of the program and that significant responsibility for developing that ability be assigned to HRTS 2500.