

TO: Administrative Boards of the General College and College of Arts and Sciences

FROM: Erika Lindemann, Interim Associate Dean for Undergraduate Curricula

Kenneth R. Janken, Director of Experiential Education

DATE: April 15, 2009

RE: Human Rights Cluster

We seek your approval to add the following cluster of courses focusing on human rights to the options available for students seeking to fulfill the Supplemental Education requirement for the bachelor of arts degree. The cluster was organized by Prof. Eunice Sahle, Department of African Studies and Afro-American Studies. Pending approval of SOCI 490, the cluster would become effective with the fall 2009 semester. As the *Undergraduate Bulletin* describes, “A cluster is a group of courses organized around a common theme and representative of different disciplinary approaches to defining and addressing an intellectual problem” (45). Students take a core course and two additional courses; the three courses drawn from the cluster must come from at least two divisions of the College of Arts and Sciences, and no more than one of the three courses may be counted toward the student’s primary major, secondary major, or minor. The courses may be taken in any order, though faculty strongly encourage students to take the core course first. The human rights cluster will be listed on the Office of Undergraduate Curricula’s Web site (<http://www.unc.edu/depts/uc/clusterintro.html>) with divisional appreciations following each course’s title:

Human Rights Cluster

The Human Rights Cluster has five main objectives:

- Interrogate the philosophical and historical origins of the concept of human rights.
- Examine the evolution of the international human rights regime in the post-1945 period.
- Explore the ways in which the normative underpinning of the notion, human right, has been used as a core frame by social movements and organizations—environmental, democratic, indigenous, labor, women, queer etc.—in a range of spatial scales (national, regional, and international).
- Examine the responses of states, regions, and institutions of global governance to the international human rights regime.
- Examine the growing debate on the diverse approaches to human rights in different cultural, religious, and historical contexts.

INTS 560 Human Rights, Ethics, and Global Issues (Core course) [SS]

AFAM 422 Human Rights and Democracy in African Diaspora Communities [SS]
AFRI 416 Human Rights and Social Justice Movements in Africa [SS]
ENTS 225 Water Resource Management and Human Rights [NS]
PHIL 282 Human Rights: Philosophical Interrogations [HM]
SOCI 490 Human Rights [SS] (pending approval, 04/49/09)
WMST 610 Feminism, Sexuality, and Human Rights (prerequisites) [HM]