Overview
This course examines the emergence and development, since World War II, of an international
movement dedicated to the promotion of human rights. We will study the goals of the movement and the
global political context in which it operates. Special attention will be given to the legal institutions, national
and international, which have influenced its evolution and character. Students taking the course will
acquire an enhanced understanding of the role in human rights politics played by the United Nations,
national governments, non-governmental organizations, customary international law, treaty law, regional
courts, and international tribunals. Note: This is a core course for both the Law, Societies & Justice
Major, and the Human Rights Minor. For more information about these two programs, see
http://depts.washington.edu/class/lsj (Law, Societies, and Justice)
http://depts.washington.edu/hrights/hrminor.html (Human Rights)

Role of Service-Learning in the Course
Students are invited, but not required, to participate in service learning. By working a few hours each
week for an organization that works on human rights issues, students can acquire direct practical
experience with the issues discussed in class. Service learning students are encouraged to share their
experiences and reflections with the rest of the class.

Assignments Related to Service-Learning
Their web-based research exercise will be connected to the mission of their organization. Choosing the
service learning option is one way to satisfy the experiential learning requirement of the Human Rights
Minor.