

## **Scholar Access Grant Report**

**Title: Human Rights in the Peace and International Studies Curriculum**

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Thanks to the Global Studies Program Scholar Access Grant, I was able to consult with three members of the UW-Madison faculty and spend a week (July 17-23) at the UW-Madison Libraries working through fundamental literature and current research on human rights and humanitarian assistance. This week of intensive study has focused the research agenda for my 2005-2006 curriculum sabbatical project. The consultations and library work have helped me clarify key themes for new courses in UW-Stevens Point's Peace and International Studies programs as well as clarified necessary updates for an existing course in World History.

The three faculty with whom I consulted represent three distinct areas of scholarship and teaching on human rights. Dr. Scott Straus helped clarify key problems in the study of genocide from the early twentieth century through the contemporary challenges. Dr. Jo Ellen Fair set forth for me the pedagogical issues and central themes in teaching an undergraduate "introduction" to human rights. Dr. Heinz Klug introduced me to key debates in humanitarian law and assistance as well as the major themes in teaching about post-conflict reconstruction and development. All three faculty members were extremely helpful in sharing references to important scholarship and advising me on successful approaches and strategies for teaching the subject matter. They were also very generous with their time.

The library research focused on three major topics: the political and legal development of human rights and humanitarianism in the modern world; the history of ideologies and ideas

such as liberalism, internationalism, civil society, and social justice; and the contemporary challenges of human rights implementation and the effectiveness post-conflict reconstruction. The literature on these topics is extensive and often “time sensitive,” but the initial research has shown that a consensus has emerged on fundamental concepts and historical benchmarks. The growth of international and humanitarian law such as in the Geneva Conventions and the creation of the International Red Cross are examples of generally accepted core material for understanding the development of human rights. Debates over implementation and effectiveness are examples of the on-going development of human rights research. One week of library research provided me the time to delve into the most important literature and to set a research agenda for the entire sabbatical year. Themes that I only began to research were the status and treatment of refugees, labor and gender rights in the age of globalization, and unique regional struggles for political and economic stability.

Materials gathered from the Scholar Access Grant will be applied directly to courses I offer at all levels of the undergraduate curriculum. The consultations and library research have helped me determine the core units and topics of a new course on human rights that will become part of the standard curriculum for Peace and International Studies at UW-Stevens Point in 2006. This course will have distinct units on the historical development of human rights, the problems of war crime and genocide, and the challenges of humanitarian intervention. Key topics will include the struggles against slavery and human trafficking, the increased targeting of civilian populations in modern warfare, and the promise and limitations of post-conflict truth commissions and reconstruction. Over the next semester I intend to build on the Scholar Access Grant materials to draft the syllabus for this advanced undergraduate course. The three UW-Madison faculty members with whom I consulted have all generously agreed to critique it. The

Scholar Access Grant has also provided material to update key lectures for units in both my freshman World History and my sophomore Introduction to Peace & Conflict Studies courses. Coverage of “internationalism” and the development of the international community is limited in World History courses. This grant has helped me research these areas to improve lecture materials particularly in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century unit of the freshman course and the “development of sustainable peace” in the Peace & Conflict Studies course.