I. DESCRIPTION OF THE DESIGNATED EMPHASIS

According to the guidelines established by the UC Davis Graduate Council, a designated emphasis must provide a special form of academic training in relation to a new method of inquiry or a new area of investigation, within the realm of two or more existing doctoral programs. The curriculum of the designated emphasis is to be offered by a faculty organized in the manner of a graduate group and governed by a set of by-laws, which specify the qualifications and selection process for determining membership. The designated emphasis, finally, is to be awarded only in conjunction with the Ph.D.

II. HUMAN RIGHTS AS AN EMERGING FIELD OF RESEARCH AND TEACHING

**Human Rights is a new field, but one that allows us as students and scholars to examine enduring and important questions** about suffering, revolution and social change, the destruction of culture, injustice, and power and powerlessness in ways that transcend established disciplines. New forms of knowledge, artistic expression and social criticism are being constituted around Human Rights in ways that are attracting a great deal of scholarly attention. Furthermore, the study of Human Rights has important implications for confirming the relevance of the university to society. The study of Human Rights has achieved the markers of an established field through the formation of dedicated scholarly organizations and academic journals. Endowed chairs, centers and programs in Human Rights have been created at many American and foreign universities.

**The Study of Human Rights has emerged as a center of research and teaching excellence at UC Davis** as evidenced by the work of the Human Rights Initiative. This proposed Designated Emphasis will build from the HRI’s growing faculty and graduate student constituency across several disciplines and fields, including Sociology, International Relations, Art History, Comparative Literature, Philosophy, History, Foreign Languages, Religion, Area Studies, and Cultural Studies. Since 2008, the HRI, has forged partnerships with the Hemispheric Institute of the Americas, the Davis Humanities Institute and the Center for Regional Change to organize workshops, symposia, seminars, and international conferences; it has provided faculty and graduate students with research grants and publication venues; it has been supported by a major new research initiative grant from the Academic Senate, as well as from the Office of the Provost; it has even attracted philanthropy from community organizations and individuals. Working with Human Rights programs at UCSD and UCSB, the HRI created the UC Humanities Network Multi-campus Research Group, *The Human Rights Collaboration*, which involves a wide-range of scholars from throughout the UCs.
Critically, this DE will **build capacity for the training of graduate students in the field of Human Rights**, and is centered on graduate level courses on the history, theory and criticism of Human Rights and the relationship between culture, the fine and dramatic arts, heritage, memory and Human Rights. These new areas of teaching and research will *add value to and support* existing graduate programs in Religion, Cultural Studies, Spanish, and other disciplines. Indeed, this is a unique opportunity for UC Davis, in that Human Rights graduate training at all of the other UCs takes place in law schools. Innovating the study of Human Rights from within and across the Humanities and Social Sciences — as is the case at the University of Chicago and Columbia University — holds tremendous potential for attracting high-quality graduate students and has important implications for faculty development and retention. Moreover, the incredible growth in Human Rights offerings at American colleges and universities nationwide (in the last few years alone three new Human Rights undergraduate programs have been formed here and at other UCs) indicates that preparing our graduates in this field — *regardless of their disciplinary home* — will give them a **significant and unique competitive advantage on the academic job market**. Finally, the clear intersection of the study of Human Rights and policy will help prepare graduate students for valued careers in public service and policy.

**III. Academic Requirements**

**A. Admission to the Designated Emphasis**

All students admitted to the doctoral programs of participating departments are eligible for admission provided that:

The candidate intends to complete a doctoral dissertation on a topic employing in whole or in part the academic study of Human Rights.

Upon Completion of the above, the candidate can declare a Designated Emphasis in Human Rights through the Graduate Division.

**B. Requirements**

1. The completion of a total of four courses for credit as follows:

   a. The following Human Rights Core Courses
      i. HMR 200A “History/Theory/Criticism of Human Rights”
      ii. HMR 200B “Culture, Memory, the Arts and Human Rights”

   b. One course or course of study in the student’s home graduate department or group, relevant to the study of Human Rights or in which the student may conduct significant research on a topic relevant to the study of Human Rights. This course or course of study
shall be identified in advance and in consultation with the student’s Human Rights DE advisor.

c. One reading or independent study course with a faculty member of the Human Rights Designated Emphasis Group;

2. The appointment of a faculty member from the Human Rights Designated Emphasis Group to the qualifying examination committee and the inclusion of a relevant question on the examination;

3. The appointment to the student’s doctoral dissertation committee of a faculty member from the Human Rights Designated Emphasis Group;

4. The completion of a doctoral dissertation that employs in whole or in part the academic study of Human Rights.

5. The Human Rights Designated Emphasis Group will appoint a faculty advisor for each student admitted. This advisor may be different from the advisor appointed by the student’s department or group and, if so, will only serve the candidate in relation to the Human Rights Designated Emphasis.

C. Degree

The degree awarded to a candidate who successfully completes both the departmental or group and designated emphasis requirements is a Ph.D. in the departmental discipline “with a designated emphasis in Human Rights Studies.”

IV. Administration

The Designated Emphasis in Human Rights shall be administered by the Designated Emphasis in Human Rights Group through its Executive Committee and Chair.

The Executive Committee initially consists of at least two faculty members elected from faculty who teach the designated core courses and two to four other faculty who teach related courses or are from the participating graduate programs. Another committee member will be drawn from the group of admitted graduate students. The chair of the Executive Committee is also the chair of the Designated Emphasis in Human Rights Group.

The “Regulations and By-Laws of the Designated Emphasis Group in Human Rights” may be examined for further details.

V. Initial Faculty (letters of affiliation attached)
Interim Executive Committee

Keith David Watenpaugh (Human Rights Initiative) Chair, pro tem
Michael Lazzara (Spanish and Portuguese)
Bella Martin (Drama)
Charles Walker (History)
Emilio Bejel (Spanish and Portuguese)
Diane Wolf (Sociology)

Founding Faculty Affiliates

W. Flagg Miller (Religion)
David Cobb (Philosophy)
Corrine Decker (History)
Almerido Ojeda (Linguistics)
Marisol De La Cadena (Anthropology)
Susan Miler (History)
David Kyle (Sociology)
Heghnar Z. Watenpaugh (Art History)
Victoria Langland (History)
Cristina Martinez-Carazo (Spanish and Portuguese)

VI. Letters of Support

Robert Irwin on behalf of Cultural Studies Graduate Group
Cecilia Colombi on behalf of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese
Flagg Miller on Behalf of the Graduate Group in the Study of Religion