



**International Institute for Genocide  
and Human Rights Studies**  
(A Division of the Zoryan Institute)

## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Announcing the 8<sup>th</sup> Year of Human Rights and Genocide Course**



**Toronto, Canada** – The International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies is proud to announce its 8<sup>th</sup> year of offering the Genocide and Human Rights University Program (“GHRUP”). This marks the second year the program is offered in collaboration with the University of Toronto’s History Department, which provides graduate-level credits for registered students.

Roger W. Smith, the Director of the GHRUP, believes that the program "thrives on a unique combination of student diversity, commitment, and faculty expertise. Using an interdisciplinary approach, we deal with the phenomenon of genocide, why it occurs, how it takes place, who is responsible, and how it can be prevented. The seminar has been one of the most satisfying events in my teaching career, now approaching forty years," he said.

The program is often described by students as a life-changing experience. One recent student stated, “The mixture of perspectives and cultures that make up the student body of this course allow the classroom to be filled with discussion, and free time to be spent in thought-provoking conversation. I have learned a great deal from this course, but most importantly, participating in this course has solidified in my mind the importance of committing my future to the intervention in, and the eventual prevention of genocides globally.”

The GHRUP is a comprehensive, graduate-level seminar taught by eight leading experts in their fields. Incorporating genocide theory, history, sociology, political science and international law, and through a comparative analysis of several case studies (such as the Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust, Cambodia, Rwanda, Darfur) and a number of special themes, it explores such

issues as:

- The Foundations of Human Rights
- International Politics and Genocide
- International Law and Genocide
- The Preconditions of Genocide
- Patterns of Genocide
- Conflict Resolution & Reconciliation
- Genocide Denial
- Genocide Prevention

Prof. Herbert Hirsch of Virginia Commonwealth University is one of the editors of *Genocide Studies and Prevention: An International Journal* and teaches about prevention at the GHRUP. He remarked that “This course is perhaps the most exciting educational experience available to any person interested in preventing genocide and protecting human rights. Participants are given the opportunity to interact with and learn from some of the major experts in the field. Even more importantly, they meet, form friendships, and learn from each other.”

Applicants must be current or recent university students with a minimum of three years of undergraduate experience. Details and registration information are available on the program’s website, [www.genocidestudies.org](http://www.genocidestudies.org) or by emailing [admin@genocidestudies.org](mailto:admin@genocidestudies.org). The GHRUP will be held in Toronto, August 3<sup>rd</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Students currently registered at the University of Toronto and graduate students from any university in Ontario may receive credit with no additional cost in tuition. Undergraduate students registered at other institutions across the province may make special arrangements for the same privilege. Students in other jurisdictions who wish to take the course for credit must make special arrangements with their local institution.

The International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (A Division of the Zoryan Institute) is dedicated to the study and dissemination of knowledge regarding the phenomenon of genocide in all of its aspects. This is achieved through the GHRUP and publication of *Genocide Studies and Prevention: An International Journal*, in partnership with the International Association of Genocide Scholars and University of Toronto Press.