THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
Honors College

Honors Integrated Minor in Human Rights and Resources:

Utah

OVERVIEW

Honors Integrated Minors provide a structured pathway to completing the Honors Degree, built around a common theme and shared with a cohort of peers. Students from any major may earn the minor by taking a total of six courses in the humanities, social sciences, arts, and natural sciences over consecutive semesters. Students who successfully complete the Minor will have completed the majority of the requirements for the Honors Degree.

All of the Honors Integrated Minors offer unique field and service opportunities connected to coursework. The Integrated Minor in Human Rights and Resources focuses on topics surrounding how the unequal distribution of natural and cultural resources shapes human experience, both within and beyond the traditional language of human rights.

The Minor includes three distinct tracks: Utah, Mexico, and Peru. The Utah version of the minor includes an intensive field experience during Fall Break 2022 to locations such as Bears Ears, the west side of Salt Lake City valley, and the Navajo Nation. During summer of 2024, the Mexico track includes 4 weeks of coursework and language instruction in Mexico City and Oaxaca, while the Peru version offers similar programming in Lima and Cusco.

The training and experiences gained by students who complete the minor will help prepare them to make unique contributions in their chosen professional fields. For students pursuing careers in the sciences, the minor will allow them to place their disciplinary expertise in larger humanistic frameworks. For students whose career paths lie outside of the sciences, the minor offers an opportunity to think about pressing global issues in the context of specific forms of disciplinary knowledge, including those drawn from STEM-affiliated fields.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

A central goal of the Integrated Minor in Human Rights and Resources is to help students develop their ability to think in interdisciplinary ways about the inequitable distribution of critical resources. Coursework in the humanities and the social and natural sciences allows students to develop a more nuanced understanding of how material and cultural resources are both limited and variably distributed—a crucial first step toward action that promotes greater equity in resource development and use.

Students who complete the minor will:

1) Have a richer historical understanding of the ongoing relationship between human rights and the variable distribution and allocation of resources;
2) Be able to explain how resource development, use, and impacts are influenced by both physical and cultural factors;

3) Be able to articulate the interdependencies that exist between diverse forms of resources, ranging from the natural (parks, clean water, air) to the corporeal (labor, reproduction) and cultural (storytelling, access to government and education);
4) Gain familiarity in the use of quantitative models to understand the nature, limits, and impact of energy resources and their use;
5) Be prepared to be part of interdisciplinary solutions that address limited and uneven resource distribution;
6) Exhibit interpersonal communication skills that demonstrate respect and appreciation for other perspectives and cultures;
7) Engage in authentic self-reflection on their own positions as users and creators of resources.

CURRICULUM FOR THE UTAH TRACK

Curriculum overview for students admitted in Fall 2023.

FALL 2023 (Includes intensive fieldwork during Fall Break)				
HONOR 2810	**IT: Human rights and resources in Utah and the Intermountain West**	Dr. Mead	HF	3.0
HONOR 2285	**Energy**	Dr. Magargal	SF	3.0

SPRING 2024				
HONOR 2115	**IT: Community & Identity**	Dr. Ketzle	HF	3.0
HONOR 2211	**Writing in Honors***	Robertson	WR	3.0

FREE SEMESTER				
_____	**Pre-approved elective (from any department) of student's choosing**	_____		3.0
_____	**Pre-approved elective (from any department) of student's choosing**	_____		3.0

*Contains specific content dedicated to the theme of Human Rights & Resources.

PROGRAM PERSONNEL

FACULTY DIRECTOR

Chris Mead: I grew up in the mountains of British Columbia and then attended college on the Canadian prairies, at the University of Manitoba. After completing my MA (also at Manitoba), I lived in London and Montreal for several years before moving to the US to begin graduate school at the University of California, Berkeley, where I received my Ph.D. in early modern English literature in 2015.

In Honors, I teach courses in Intellectual Traditions and writing, and I am currently serving as serving as Faculty Director of the Honors Integrated Minor in Human Rights and Resources, which is currently running tracks in Utah and Mexico.

For me, the greatest pleasures of Honors are found in its diversity and interdisciplinarity. I welcome conversations with students about topics relating to the HRR minor, Mexico, my research interests (which historically have focused on the relationship between technology and religion), and whatever happens to be on your mind.

TEACHING FACULTY

Kate Magargal: I'm a researcher and teacher who focuses on topics of energy, ecology, Traditional ecological knowledge, and land management. I graduated from the University of Utah in 2019 with a PhD in Anthropology: a field that combines many sciences to understand and inform society. My absolute favorite thing to do is to simply walk around and look at stuff. I find loads of inspiration observing the countless connections of lives playing out in my garden, the city, the mountains, the desert... exploring that through art, science, and conversation is the good life to me. I'm excited about exploring these connections with students in the Integrated Minor in Human Rights and Resources.

Mi nombre es **Lorena Labastida Robles**, tengo 21 años y soy mexicana. Vengo de un pequeño pueblo del estado de Morelos, el cual es muy turístico y amado por extranjeros por su tranquilidad y paisajes.

Disfruto mucho realizar actividades que me traigan paz, como escuchar música, leer y ver películas. Acabo de terminar mi licenciatura en Idiomas en la UNINTER y actualmente trabajo como maestra de español como lengua extranjera.

Estoy muy emocionada de tener la oportunidad de compartir el verdadero México con los estudiantes y acompañarlos en su aprendizaje y vivencias aquí. Al mismo tiempo, sé que será una excelente oportunidad para que podamos descubrir cosas nuevas juntos y que ésta será una increíble experiencia de crecimiento académico y personal para todos.

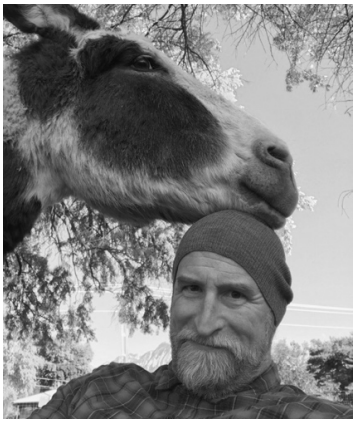
Paul Ketzle: I am a Professor (Lecturer) in the Honors College, where I have been teaching for the past 16 years (and 23 at Utah overall). Born and raised in Miami, FL, I earned my BA and MA from Florida State University in Tallahassee before completing my Ph.D. at Utah in English Literature and Creative Writing. Along the way, I also lived for a time in Eugene, OR, where I made carrot juice at an organic cooperative and, to my good fortune, met my wife. Utah is worlds different from the Atlantic beaches I grew up on, and I revel in the opportunities to hike, golf, camp, and generally enjoy the mountains, deserts, and all of the natural beauty of our state, I'm a writer by inclination and training, and my first novel, *The Late Matthew Brown*, won the Utah Original Writing Competition. I split my free time now working on essays for a collection about social privilege and on my latest novel, which is set during the American Civil War, as well as writing music.

For the past 10 years or so, I've increasingly focused on questions about power and natural rights. Whether we're exploring race and equality (in my 2211 class), revolutions (2810), the consent of the governed (2103), or what it means to imagine ourselves a "people" (2115), I hope to challenge both my students and myself to think critically about not only how these ideas have carried throughout history, but also how they are valuable to us today as we seek to create a more equitable, sustainable, and just society.

Soy **Abelardo de la Cruz**, soy un macehualli (persona nahua) de Chicontepec, Veracruz, México. Obtuve mi doctorado en antropología en la Universidad Estatal de Nueva York, campus Albany. Mi pueblo natal se localiza en la Huasteca Veracruzana, en el norte de Veracruz. Yo disfruto escuchar huapangos y enseñar náhuatl como segunda lengua. Mi lengua materna es también llamado lengua azteca. Actualmente, en México, muchos idiomas son hablados junto con el español, y las personas usan su lenguaje de varias maneras.

I am **Abelardo de la Cruz**, I am a macehualli (Nahua person) from Chicontepec, Veracruz, Mexico. I obtained my PhD in Anthropology at the State University of New York at Albany. My small town is located at the Huasteca Veracruzana, in the north of Veracruz. I enjoy listening to huapangos and to teach Nahuatl

language as L2. My mother tongue is also named Aztec language. Nowadays, in Mexico, many Indigenous languages are spoken along with Spanish, and people use their language in many ways.



Eric Robertson: I'm from a small town in rural Utah, where I get my interest in horses, gardens, camping and travel. I teach the writing courses in the Honors College as well as a writing seminar in the Environmental Humanities Graduate Program. I write and edit works of fiction and creative nonfiction for a variety of publications. Those endeavors are inspired by my academic interest is queer ecology, which explores the imbalances between normative human ecology and the social concerns of marginalized groups. I'm excited to explore with students how people's access to various resources can determine what it means to live a good life.

Talía Dajes is Assistant Professor of Spanish in the Department of World Languages and Cultures at the University of Utah. She specializes in contemporary Latin American literature and culture. Her research focuses on the connection between aesthetics, memory, and political violence in the context of Peru and the Andean region. She has published articles and essays about Peruvian literature, film, visual culture, and performance in a variety of volumes and academic journals.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP

Winona Wood: I manage the Honors Integrated Minors program, advise students on the Human Rights and Resources Integrated Minor, and support the faculty with the development of the program's curriculum. I received my H.B.S. in Communication Studies and Political Science in 2017, was in the inaugural Honors Ecology and Legacy cohort in 2014-15, and was recently awarded my M.S. in Sociology on my way to my Ph.D. here at the University of Utah. Growing up in Bountiful, Utah, I moved 30 minutes south to Salt Lake upon starting my undergraduate and – except for some time spent living on Utah's national forests and in Xi'an, China – have loved living here ever since. A few things I enjoy are hardcore punk, movement politics, moving through Utah's marvelous nonhuman natural spaces, and the joys of cat parenthood. The questions of inequality and power that animate the theme of this minor fascinate me, relate to the work I do as a Ph.D. student, and make this a very exciting program to support you on.