

**HR 405: Bhopal**  
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This intensive seminar will take the Bhopal disaster (a gas leak at a Union Carbide plant in India in December 1984 which killed 8,000 and permanently injured tens of thousands more) as a case study in human rights research. Working together with documentary filmmaker Ilan Ziv and others investigating the story, we will examine the aftermath of the event through a variety of questions. Why, and in what ways, is Bhopal "still" with us? Why does "Bhopal" remain a powerful metaphor -- and an active legal, ethical, and political issue -- twenty years after the event? What happens when an issue of health and the environment is recast as a matter of human rights? Likewise, what sort of tensions, and possibilities, surface in the encounter between problems of globalization and corporate responsibility and the language of human rights? What role is there in cases like this for extra-legal processes such as truth commissions, and how might they be evaluated? How have trans-national advocacy networks and campaigns changed the status of Bhopal? And what is at stake when we study, research, write about, or make films about disasters like this one? We will read and watch a variety of original and secondary material, engage with Ziv and others in creative and research projects, meet with advocates and experts, and reflect on the meanings and effects of Bhopal after twenty years.