



Northwestern | ROBERTA BUFFETT INSTITUTE
FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Defending Academic Freedom: Student Advocacy Seminar

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES | SPRING 2026

TAUGHT BY PROFESSORS
SAMANTHA NISSEN & ANDREEA MICU

Taught by Buffett Institute staffers, this undergraduate seminar is offered in collaboration with the Scholars at Risk Network, a nonprofit working globally to protect scholars who are threatened, displaced, or imprisoned for their academic work. Students will work in groups to devise an advocacy campaign for two scholars currently imprisoned abroad, conducting human rights monitoring and research. They will also explore the meaning and stakes of academic freedom worldwide. Students will develop skills in partnership building, community outreach, issue-based research, persuasive content creation, and engaging elected officials.



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