

## TRINITY COLLEGE

### **International Studies 203 Human Rights in a Global Age**

Spring 2007  
MW 8:30-9:45am

**Michael Niemann**

McCook 216  
Ext. 2431

#### **Purpose:**

The general framework for the course will be an ongoing discussion of the role of human rights as a moral discourse in an age of globalization. After an introduction to the fundamental concepts, we will examine a variety of cases that examine issues in the areas war and humanitarian intervention, torture and the impact of globalizing forces on social, economic, and cultural rights. The course ends with an examination of the implementation mechanisms for human rights.

#### **Principles:**

- Integrity – we will conduct ourselves with authenticity, sincerity and wholeness.
- Failure Leads to Success – failures provide us with opportunities for learning, therefore, there are no failures, only outcomes and feedback.
- Speak with Good Purpose – we will speak in a positive sense, be responsible for honest and direct communication and avoid gossip and harmful communications.
- This Is It – we will focus our attention on the present moment and give each task our best effort.
- Commitment – we will follow through on promises and obligations and do whatever it takes to get the job done.
- Ownership – we will take responsibility and be accountable for our actions.
- Flexibility – we will be open to change and try a new approach if it helps us get to the desired outcome.
- Balance – We will keep our mind, body and spirit in alignment.

#### **Requirements**

The requirements for this course are straightforward - you have to be prepared for classes, participate in your group project and the class as a whole. Although the class is large, please do not plan on blending into the background. The format will be a mixture of lecture, discussion and on-line discussion so there are many opportunities for you to contribute to the learning in this class. The on-line discussions will be especially important because they permit us to pursue more detailed questions in depth and allow broader participation.

We will form groups consisting of four students early in the semester. These groups will collaborate to produce a "mini human rights campaign" (see the separate document for details).

In order to receive a grade you will have to satisfy the following requirements:

- Regular and timely attendance (more than two absences, excused or not, will negatively affect your grade);
- Attendance at three human rights lectures throughout the semester;
- Proper preparation for each class;

- Consistent (at least two contributions per week every week!) participation in online discussions (these four requirements together account for 15%)
- Three exams (20% each)
- One term project (25%)

The course readings are listed on the Blackboard site for this class. Please purchase the books and the two case studies at the bookstore. All other readings are online and can be accessed through Blackboard.

## **Course Outline**

### **Introduction**

Jan. 22 - Orientation

Jan. 24 - An Introduction to Human Rights

Readings: Buergenthal

### **Human Rights as Universal Rights**

Jan. 29 - Perspective #1 - Human Evolution

Readings: Dunne & Wheeler, ch. 1

Jan. 30 - Human Rights Lecture: Donna Newman and Patricia Blum “The Moral and Legal Impact of U.S. Detention Policy in Guantanamo and beyond.” Terrace Room B, 5pm

Jan. 31 - Perspective #2 - Modernity and Statehood

Readings: Dunne & Wheeler, ch. 2

Feb. 05 - Perspective #3 - Non-Ethnocentrism

Readings: Dunne & Wheeler, ch. 4

Feb. 07 - Perspective #4 - Pragmatism

Readings: Rorty

Feb. 12 - Perspective #5 - Feminism

Readings: Dunne & Wheeler, ch. 10, Brems

Feb. 14 Exam 1

### **Human Rights and Humanitarian Intervention**

Feb. 19 - Armed Conflict in a Global Age

Readings: Dunne & Wheeler, ch. 6, O'Connell, Hertzberg

Feb. 21 - The Case of Somalia

Readings: Menkhaus, [Ambush in Mogadishu](#)

Feb. 20 - Human Rights Lecture: Trevor Paglen “Ghosts, Disappearances, and Unmarked Airplanes: Extraordinary Rendition and the Secret Geographies of the War on Terror.” Terrace Room B, Mather Hall 5:00 p.m.

Feb. 28 - The Case of Rwanda

Readings: Ausink, [Triumph of Evil](#), Power

## **Human Rights and the Global War Against Terror**

Mar. 05 - Torture

Readings: Hersh (both articles), Mayer, [The Torture Question](#) (Frontline video)

**Mar. 05 - Human Rights Lecture: Jeffrey Helsing “Building peace and fighting terror by promoting justice and human rights.” Terrace Room B, Mather Hall 5:00 p.m.**

Mar. 07 – The Global War against Terror

Readings: Forsyth - War on Terror, Hoffman

Mar. 12 - Legal Obligations

Readings: van der Vryer, ICJ

**Mar. 14 EXAM #2**

## **Economic and Social Rights**

Mar. 26 – What are Economic, Social and Cultural Rights?

Readings: Leckie, Donnelly,

Mar. 28 - Globalization and Human Rights

Readings: Evans, Human Development Report 1999, ch. 3,

Apr. 02 - Globalization and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Readings: Dommen, Sadasivam

Apr. 04 - Human Rights and Development

Readings: Hamm

## **Safeguarding Human Rights in the Age of Globalization**

Apr. 09 – Legal Means - National

Readings: Quigley, Human Development Report 1999, ch. 4, Heyns

Apr. 11 -Legal Means - Regional

Readings: Dunne & Wheeler, ch. 11, Farer, Mutua

Apr. 16 - Transnational Advocacy Networks

Readings: Dunne & Wheeler, ch. 7, Burgerman

Apr. 18 - Global Approaches.

Readings: Human Development Report 1999, ch. 5, Forsythe - US & ICC

Apr. 23 - Student presentations in class

Apr. 25 - Student presentations in class

Apr. 30 - Student presentations in class

**May 5 - Student-led conference: “Post 9-11 wars and human rights.” Washington Room, 1-5 pm**

**May 08, 12 noon FINAL EXAM**

## Readings

### Books:

Ausink, John. *Watershed in Rwanda: The Evolution of President Clinton's Humanitarian Intervention Policy*. Pew Case Studies in International Affairs, # 374. Washington, DC: Georgetown University, 1997.

Dunne, Tim and Wheeler, Nicholas. *Human Rights in Global Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

Menkhaus, Ken and Ortmayer, Louis. *Key Decisions in the Somalia Intervention*. Pew Case Studies in International Affairs, # 464. Washington, DC: Georgetown University, 1995.

### Articles:

Brems, E. "Enemies or Allies? Feminism and Cultural Relativism as Dissident Voices in Human Rights Discourse," *Human Rights Quarterly* 19 (1).

Buergenthal, T. "The Normative and Institutional Evolution of International Human Rights." *Human Rights Quarterly* 19 (4)

Burgerman, S. "Mobilizing Principles: The Role of Transnational Activists in Promoting Human Rights Principles," *Human Rights Quarterly* 20 (4).

Dommen, C. "Raising Human Rights Concerns in the World Trade Organization," *Human Rights Quarterly* 24 (1).

Donnelly, J. "Human Rights, Democracy, and Development," *Human Rights Quarterly* 21 (3).

Evans, Tony. "Citizenship and Human Rights in the Age of Globalization." *Alternatives* 25 (4).

Farer, T. "The Rise of the Inter-American Human Rights Regime: No Longer a Unicorn, Not Yet an Ox." *Human Rights Quarterly* 19 (3).

Forsythe, D. "United States Policy toward Enemy Detainees in the 'War on Terrorism'." *Human Rights Quarterly* 28 (2006) 465-491

Forsythe, D. "The United States and International Criminal Justice," *Human Rights Quarterly*, 24 (4).

Hamm, B. "A Human Rights Approach to Development," *Human Rights Quarterly*, 23 (4).

Hersh, Seymour. "Torture at Abu Ghraib." *The New Yorker* 10 May 2004.

Hersh, Seymour. "Chain of Command." *The New Yorker* 17 May 2004.

Hertzberg, H. "Manifesto," *The New Yorker*, 14 October 2002.

Heyns, C. and Viljoen, F. "The Impact of the United Nations Human Rights Treaties on the Domestic Level." *Human Rights Quarterly* 23(3).

Hoffman, P. "Human Rights and Terrorism." *Human Rights Quarterly* 26 (2004) 932-955.

International Commission of Jurists. Berlin Declaration 2004.

Leckie, S. "Another Step Towards Indivisibility: Identifying the Key Features of Violations of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights," *Human Rights Quarterly* 20(1).

Mayer, Jane. "Outsourcing Torture." *The New Yorker* 7 February 2005.

Mutua, M. "The African Human Rights Court: A Two-Legged Stool?" *Human Rights Quarterly* 21 (2).

O'Connell, M. "The UN, NATO, and International Law After Kosovo." *Human Rights Quarterly* 22(1).

Power, S. "Bystanders to Genocide." *Atlantic Monthly*, September 2001.

Quigley, J. "Human Rights Defenses in US Courts." *Human Rights Quarterly* 20 (3).

Rorty, R. "Human Rights, Rationality, and Sentimentality." Oxford Amnesty Lecture 2002.

Sadasivam, B. "The Impact of Structural Adjustment on Women: A Governance and Human Rights Agenda," *Human Rights Quarterly* 19 (3).

United Nations Development Programme. *Human Development Report 1999*. New York: UNDP, 1999.

van der Vryer, J. "Torture as a Crime under International Law," *Albany Law Review* 67(2).