

International Studies 375

Human Rights in a Global Age

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Purpose:

Human Rights In A Global Age provides a broad survey of global human rights from an interdisciplinary perspective. 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 the implementation mechanisms at various levels. The bulk of the course examines human rights challenges in the areas war and humanitarian intervention, torture, health, women's rights, the impact of globalizing forces on social, economic, and cultural rights and foreign policy.

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 class discussions and complete the exams and your term project. The format will be a mixture of lecture and discussion, so there are many opportunities for you to contribute to the learning in this class.

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

- Regular and timely attendance; proper preparation for each class; consistent participation in class discussions (20%)
- Two exams (25% each = 50%)
- One human rights campaign (group project) (30%)

Book: Donnelly, Jack. *International Human Rights*. Boulder: Westview Press, 2013.

Articles: Check Moodle for a list of articles used in this class.

Course Outline

Mar. 29 - Orientation - Facets of Globalization

Mar. 31 - What are Human Rights?

Readings: Donnelly, ch. 1, 2; Marx

Foundations

Apr. 5 - Cultural Relativist & Feminist Vision

Readings: Brems, Donnelly, ch. 6

Apr. 7 - Postmodern/Pragmatist Visions

Readings: Rorty

Issue Areas

Apr. 12 - Humanitarian Intervention

Readings: Donnelly, ch. 13, Power, Human Rights Council

Apr. 14 - Armed Conflict and Counterterrorism

Readings: Donnelly, ch. 15, Living Under Drones

Apr. 19 - Torture

Readings: Donnelly, ch. 4, Scharf, Macklin

Apr. 21 - What Stands Between Us program

Apr. 26 - Death Penalty

Reading: Mathias, Miao

Apr. 29 - Health and Human Rights

Reading: Kismodi, Gruskin

May 3 - Midterm Exam

May 5 - Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Readings: Donnelly, ch. 14, Maastricht Guidelines

May 10 - Development and Human Rights

Readings: Hamm

May 12 - Environment and Human Rights

Readings: Brukerhoff, Knox

May 17 - Human Rights and Foreign Policy

Readings: Donnelly, ch. 8-9

Implementation Mechanisms

May 19 - Implementation - Global

Readings: Donnelly, ch. 5, UN Human Rights Council Website

May 24 - Implementation - Regional

Readings: Donnelly, ch. 6, 7, various websites (see Moodle)

May 26 - Transnational Advocacy

Readings: Donnelly, ch. 10 & 11, Burgerman

May 31 - Presentations

Jun. 2 - Presentations

Jun. 9 - Final Exam @ 3:30 pm