

Course ID Number: DCC5460

Course Title: Human Rights and Global Justice

No. of Credits: 2

Graduate School of International Relations
International University of Japan

Term: Fall 2009

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Course Introduction

This course aims to provide students with a good understanding of the academic study of human rights and global justice. Among issues considered are: the theoretical foundations of the concept of human rights in the western traditions; the concept in non-western traditions; the evolution and establishment of international human rights norms; universalism and relativism concerning human rights in the so-called “Asian Values” debate; and the meaning and relevance of the human rights framework in coping with critical issues in the present world, such as world poverty, in terms of global justice.

We will spend much of the class time discussing the readings together. You will come to class having done the reading assignment for each class. You are required to participate actively in class discussion and are encouraged to bring in diverse and creative views along with due respect for views of others.

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Requirements and Grading

Participation (20%): class attendance, consistent class preparation, and active class discussion are required.

Writing assignments (80%): either two 7-8 page papers responding to issues you find in the readings (40% for each paper) or one about 15 page paper on a topic of your choice related to the issues of this course.

If instead of a 7-8 page paper some of you want to give a substantial in-class presentation (about 30 minutes. 40% of the grade) such as a case study, I am open to that. Those of you who give a presentation will write another 7-8 paper. Giving two presentations instead of the writing assignments is not allowed.

Your papers must be word-processed and double-spaced with 12 font and standard margins. Papers will be graded for content (the demonstrated understanding of the readings, original thought, etc.) and style (argument structure). We will talk more about the mechanics of paper-writing.

Reading List

- Bauer, Johanne R and Daniel A. Bell. (eds.) (1999) *The East Asian Challenge for Human Rights*. Cambridge University Press.
- Binion, Gayle. (1995) "Human Rights: A Feminist Perspective" in *Human Rights Quarterly (HRQ)* 17.3, pp. 509-26.
- Brems, Eva. (1997) "Enemies or Allies? Feminism and Cultural Relativism as Dissident Voices in Human Rights Discourse" in *HRQ* 19.1, pp. 136-64
- Buergenthal, Thomas. (1997) "The Normative and Institutional Evolution of International Human Rights" in *HRQ* 19.4, pp. 703-23.
- Bunch, Charlotte. (1990) "Women's Rights as Human Rights" in *HRQ* 12.4, pp. 486-98
- Burgers, Jan Herman. (1992) "The Road to San Francisco" in *HRQ* 14.4, pp. 447-77.
- Donnelly, Jack. (2003) *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice*, 2nd edition. Cornell University Press.
- Evans, Tony. (ed.) (1998) *Human Rights Fifty Years On: a Reappraisal*. Manchester University Press.
- Follesdal, Andreas and Thomas W. Pogge (eds.) (2005) *Real World Justice*. Springer.
- Forsythe, David P. (2000) *Human Rights in International Relations*. Cambridge University Press.
- Hayden, Patrick. (ed.) (2001) *The Philosophy of Human Rights: Readings in Context*. Paragon House
- Ishay, Micheline R. (2004) *The History of Human Rights*. University of California Press.
- Kukathas, Chandran. (2006) "The Mirage of Global Justice," in *Social Philosophy and Policy* 23.1, pp. 1-28
- Langlois, Anthony J. (2001) *The Politics of Justice and Human Rights*. Cambridge University Press.
- Perry, Michael J. (1997) "Are Human Rights Universal?" in *HRQ* 19.3, pp. 461-509.
- Pogge, Thomas W. (2002) *World Poverty and Human Rights*. Polity Press.
- Pogge, Thomas W. (ed.) (2001) *Global Justice*. Blackwell.
- Shue, Henry. (1996) *Basic Rights*, 2nd ed. Princeton University Press.
- Tang, James T. H. (ed.) (1995) *Human Rights and International Relations in the Asia Pacific*. Pinter.

Course Outline

Listed under each week is the required reading for that week.

Week 1. Introduction to the course

Forsythe, pp. 3-52; Hayden, pp. 353-58.

Week 2. What Human rights are

Hayden, pp. 163-186, 212-40; Donnelly, pp. 7-23; Shue, pp. 5-64.

Week 3. The development and implementation of human rights

Evans, pp.2-23; Donnelly, pp. 22-37, 57-70, 127-54; Forsythe, pp. 55-83; Burgers; Buergenthal.

Week 4. Human rights in non-western traditions: Universalism and relativism (1)

Hayden, pp. 291-334, 379-96; Donnelly, pp. 71-106; Perry.

Week 5. Universalism and relativism (2): the "Asian Values" debate

Hayden, pp. 397-408; Donnelly, pp. 107-26; Bauer and Bell, pp. 27-59; Tang, pp. 25-38,54-67; Langlois, pp. 12-72.

Week 6. Feminist perspectives on human rights

Hayden, pp. 505-25; Evans, pp. 132-60; Binion; Bunch; Brems.

Week 7. Human rights and global justice

Pogge, *World Poverty and Human Rights*, pp. 1-70; Follesdal and Pogge (eds.), *Real World Justice*, pp. 2-11; Evans, pp. 58-76.

Week 8. Global economy, world poverty, and global justice (1)

Pogge, *World Poverty and Human Rights*, pp. 91-145; Kukathas.

Week 9. Global economy, world poverty, and global justice (2)

Pogge, *World Poverty and Human Rights*, pp. 196-215; Follesdal and Pogge (eds.), *Real World Justice*, pp. 317-38, 359-80; Pogge (ed.), *Global Justice*, pp. 6-23; Bauer and Bell, pp. 241-63; Evans, pp. 161-85; Forsythe, pp. 191-213.

Week 10. The future of human rights.

Forsythe, pp. 163-90; Evans, pp. 188-210; Bauer and Bell, pp. 103-44; Pogge, *World Poverty and Human Rights*, pp. 168-95; Ishay, pp. 315-55.

Week 11. Papers due.