

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 2013

Instructor: Motohide Saji

Course Description:

This course aims to provide students with an understanding of the academic study of human rights and global justice.

We spend much of the class time discussing the readings. You will come to class having read the reading assignment for each class and participate actively in class discussion

HUMAN RIGHTS AND GLOBAL JUSTICE

Fall 2013

International University of Japan

Instructor: Motohide Saji (msaji@iuj.ac.jp)

Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:00-12:00, or by appointment

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Requirements and Grading

Attendance to all sessions is required. Attendance is not a part of grading criteria. Absence is a minus, that is, disadvantageous, in terms of grading unless you have serious reasons such as family emergency, documented medical emergency, and religious reasons. You should let the instructor know the reason for your absence.

Summary writing and active participation (worth 15%): in the first 10-15 minutes at the beginning of class each week (except weeks 6 and 9), you are required to write a short summary of the reading material of that week (the material should be closed when you are writing). Please bring a pencil and a sheet of paper with you. In class I will also randomly choose one or more students to pose discussion questions about the reading material. You are required to participate actively in class discussion.

In-class presentation (worth 10%): students are divided into four groups. Two groups give their in-class presentations in week 6 (one group in the first, morning session, the second group in the second, afternoon session), the other two groups in week 10 (the same). Discuss human rights issues (or issues that would count as human rights issues if you take the human rights viewpoint) in your country. Or present problems you find in the reading materials and. The presentation can be either an individual one or a group one. In the former case, do it in about 5 minutes, definitely less than 10 minutes. We will ask you questions about, and discuss critically, the issues presented.

Writing assignment (75%):

One term paper of about 2,500 words. The front page and bibliography are not included in the word number. A paper exceeding 2,750 words will be disadvantageous. Paper topics will be provided in due time. Consult me if you have come up with a topic of your

own. Any reference/citation format is fine, but you must show the sources (where you find/take information, idea, etc.). You turn in two copies to me, one in hardcopy and one in electronic copy (via e-mail as Word attachment). **Term paper due by noon, December 11, Wednesday.**

Late work:

Late work will be penalized half of a grade (from an A to an A-, from a B+ to a B, etc.) each day after the deadline. No excuse for late work except for real emergency reasons such as family emergency and documented medical emergency, and you should explain these reasons to the instructor.

Other things:

Your term paper will be evaluated in terms of accuracy, clarity, and logic.

Accuracy: whether you correctly understand the arguments, concepts, etc. of the reading assignments.

Clarity: whether you present your argument in a clear and lucid way.

Logic: whether your claim, evidence, and conclusion are connected in your argument.

Make sure that your name, the course title, the name of the instructor, date, the topic you chose, and the paper title appear at the top of the paper.

Plagiarism will be dealt with most harshly (an F for the paper)

Reading

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): 509-526.

Brems, Eva. (1997) "Enemies or Allies? Feminism and Cultural Relativism as Dissident Voices in Human Rights Discourse" in *HRQ* 19 (1): 136-164.

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.

Hayden, Patrick. (ed.) (2001) *The Philosophy of Human Rights: Readings in Context*. Paragon House

Pogge, Thomas W. (2002) *World Poverty and Human Rights*. Polity Press.

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.

Weiss, Thomas G. (2007) *Humanitarian Intervention*. Polity Press.

Course Outline

“My folder” readings are available via IUJ server. Log in and go to “IR Materials” folder, “Saji” folder, “Human Rights and Global Justice 2013” folder, and a folder with a week number. I will hand out other readings to you in class. Hand-out readings are charged by the university.

Week 1. Introduction to the course

Week 2. What Human rights are

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (available on the UN website);
Donnelly, pp. 7-37; Shue, pp. 5-64.

Week 3. Human rights in a broad context

Evans, pp.2-23; Donnelly, pp. 38-70; Hayden, pp. 241-57 (Richard Rorty).

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

Hayden, pp. 291-334 (the writings by the Dalai Lama, an African scholar, and a Muslim scholar); Donnelly, pp. 71-106.

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

Hayden, pp. 397-408; Donnelly, pp. 107-26, 204-224; Tang, pp. 25-38
(Not a required reading, *The Politics of Justice and Human Rights* by Anthony Langlois is available in the library).

Week 6. Presentation

Week 7. Feminist perspectives on human rights

Evans, pp. 132-60; Binion (my folder); Brems (my folder).

Week 8. Human rights and global distributive justice

Pogge, *World Poverty and Human Rights*, pp. 52-70, 118-167; Follesdal and Pogge (eds.), *Real World Justice*, pp. 2-11.

Week 9. Presentation

Week 10. Humanitarian intervention

Weiss, pp. 5-30, 59-154.