

Enquire Teaching Timetable

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Course Outcome

GPAD 2300 - Understanding Human Rights

Learning Outcome

The course would like to achieve the following outcomes:

1. To introduce the broad contours of human rights law and concepts and the goals and practices of the human rights movement
2. To engage the central debates that underlie the human rights movement and explore the implications of such debates in discrete areas of human rights law
3. To assist students in exploring their own interests in the field and in developing and achieving their own realistic goals for the study of human rights.

Course Syllabus

I. Introduction-What is the Human Rights Movement About?

II. International Law-A Foundation for Human Rights

A. Customary Law

B. General Principles

C. Treaties

D. Nuremberg Trial-An Historical Foundation for Human Rights

E. Perspectives on International Law

F. State Sovereignty and Human Rights

G. Natural Rights and Human Rights

III. Civil and Political Rights

A. UN Foundations-Charter, Universal Declaration and ICCPR

B. Enforcement Under the ICCPR-A Prototype

1. Basic Powers and Functions

2. Comparison with Other Human Rights Treaties

C. State Duties Respecting Rights

D. The Public-Private Distinction

E. Human Rights Resolutions and Customary Practice

IV. Social and Economic Justice-Human Rights for the Poor?

A. Historical and Theoretical Context

B. Relating the Two Sets of Rights

C. Justiciability and Domestic Enforcement

D. International Monitoring

E. The Right to Development

V. Human Rights and Culture -Are Human Rights Just Western?

A. The Roots and Foundations of Human Rights

B. The Competing Claim for Human Responsibilities

C. Universalism Versus Cultural Relativism

The East Asian Perspective

D. Cultural Wars: Gender, Religion and Children

1. Inequality for Women

2. International Standards and the Women's Convention (CEDAW)

3. Gender and Culture

4. Religion and Human Rights

5. The Rights of Children

VI. The UN Human Rights System

A. Basic Concepts and Structures

B. The Historic UN Commission on HR-Special Procedures

C. The New UN Human Rights Council and High Commissioner

D. UN Security Council-Humanitarian Intervention and Sanctions

VII. Terrorism, Torture and Human Rights-New Rules for the Age of Terror?

A. Defining Terrorism-The Human Rights Connection

B. Regulating Emergencies and Derogation from Human Rights

C. Regulating Detention--Guantanamo

D. Torture-Is it Ever Justified?

VIII. International Criminal Justice and Human Rights

A. Universal Jurisdiction-Background

B. Adhoc International Criminal Tribunals

C. The International Criminal Court

D. Alternatives-Truth Commissions

IX. Regional Arrangements-Examples for Asia?

A. Regional Versus Global Approaches

B. The European System

C. The Inter-American System

X. State Protection of Human Rights and Civil Society

A. Civil Society and NGOs-Supporting Human Rights

B. Constitutionalism

C. The Hong Kong Basic Law

Assessment Type

	Assessment Type	Current Percent
1	Essays	0
2	Essay test or exam	0
3	Selected response test or exam	0

Feedback for Evaluation

1. Course and Teaching Evaluation Survey
2. Internal Course Review

Required Readings

Henry J. Steiner and Philip Alston, *International Human Rights in Context, Law, Politics, Morals* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000, 2nd Edition)

Recommended Readings

Michael C. Davis et al, eds., *International Intervention in the Post-Cold War World,*

Moral Responsibility and Power Politics (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 2004).

Jack Donnelly, *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice, Second Edition*

(Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2003).

Jack L. Goldsmith and Eric A. Posner, *The Limits of International Law*

(Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005).

Michael Ignatieff, *Political Ethics in an Age of Terror: The Lesser Evil*

(Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004).

David Kennedy, *The Dark Side of Virtue, Reassessing International Humanitarianism*

(Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004).

Adamantia Pollis and Peter Schwab, eds., *Human Rights, New Perspectives, New Realities*

(London: Lynne Reiner Publishers, 2000).

*Some of the chapters of the above books may also be assigned as required readings

