Contemporary Issues in Human Rights

Outline

Anthropology 380/CA  Summer 2017
Tu/Th  12:30-15:00  Rm  Hall 509

Prof:  Salinda S. Hess, PhD, ELS
Office:  Hall Building 1125-38 ext. 5243
Office hour: Thursday 3:15-4:30 pm; after class or by appointment

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sshess@hotmail.com

The course develops, through case analysis, insight into the differing priorities and competing concepts of human rights and human dignity in “non-Western” cultural traditions as well as in “Western” societies. It explores the significance of religious and other ideological positions in the use and abuse of human rights by governments, extra-governments, international bodies, as well as the general public. The course also examines topics such as women’s human rights, sexuality and human rights, and human rights in development, the limits of sovereignty, and state accountability.

Human rights are generally thought to be rights held by individuals simply because they are part of the human species. This course will provide an overview of the history and development of human rights from ancient times to the modern globalized world. Of particular interest will be the exploration of Indigenous (Aboriginal) Rights in Canada and internationally, global issues on climate change, the rights of women, the right to food, as well as issues of social suffering. The course will be based on group work, films, simulation activities, and extensive readings.

Objectives:

To understand the conceptual, historical, ideological, and cultural views of human rights

To explore the contemporary global issues and the critiques of human rights

To engage in critical thinking about human rights and media representations

To improve abilities to analyze, summarize, and present arguments based on your readings or viewings

To develop abilities to work and write in groups and independently

Required Texts and Readings:


Available in the Coop bookstore on Bishop St.

Course Pack (CP): Texts selected from books related to human rights. (Main book store)

There are also articles on electronic reserve (ER) under this course name, and the books for the assignment are on reserve in the library (see list following course schedule).

Resources that are suggested, but not required will be noted by enclosure with square brackets, [ ]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 27:</td>
<td>Introduction; What is Human? What are Rights?</td>
<td>Film Discussion</td>
<td>[Hurvitz] [Ignatieff]</td>
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<td>Potential Film: <em>A Path to dignity: The Power of Human Rights Education</em></td>
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<td><a href="http://path-to-dignity.org">http://path-to-dignity.org</a></td>
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<td>June 29:</td>
<td>History of Human Rights</td>
<td>Guest Speaker: Dr. Michael Rosenberg</td>
<td>CP: Lauren, P 2003</td>
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<td>Clapham, Chapter 1 &amp;2</td>
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<td>[Hynes] [Joas]</td>
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<td>July 4:</td>
<td>Anthropology and the “The Tree of Rights”</td>
<td>Library Research Assignment #1</td>
<td>Van Arsdale, Intro and Chapter 1</td>
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<td>ER: Messer</td>
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<td>[Wilson] [Clement]</td>
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<td>July 6:</td>
<td>Rights and Citizenship</td>
<td>Guest Speaker: Dr. Meir Amor</td>
<td>ER: Parekh</td>
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<td>ER: Dembour</td>
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<td>CP: Ishay</td>
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<td>[Blau &amp; Frezzo]</td>
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<td>July 11:</td>
<td>United Nations and Rights Declarations</td>
<td>Assignment #3 Part A</td>
<td>Clapham Chapter 3</td>
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<td>Potential Film: <em>By His Hand, The Story of the Creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights</em></td>
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<td>CP: Sikka</td>
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<td>July 13:</td>
<td>“Half the Sky”: Women’s Rights and Activism</td>
<td>Guest Speaker: Dr. Homa Hoodfar</td>
<td>ER: Keck and Sikkink</td>
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<td>Potential Film: <em>Invoking Justice</em></td>
<td>CP: Madhok</td>
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<td>CP: Tomasevski</td>
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<td>July 18:</td>
<td>Indigenous and Aboriginal Rights</td>
<td>Assignment #2 MIDTERM and Reflection Paper</td>
<td>CP: Gledhill</td>
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<td>Prepare for simulation</td>
<td>ER: Kingston</td>
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<td>Potential film: <em>Defensora</em></td>
<td>[Kulchyski]</td>
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<td>[Short] [Mora]</td>
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<td>[Watt-Cloutier]</td>
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<td>July 20:</td>
<td>Transnational Rights</td>
<td>Simulation Activity</td>
<td>Clapham: Chapters 6&amp;8</td>
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<td>Potential Film: <em>Suspino</em></td>
<td>Browse the multiple works on Gypsies</td>
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<td>[Dossa] [Goodale]</td>
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### Contemporary Issues in Human Rights

#### July 25: - Session 9

| Climate, Harm Reduction and the right to Health | Potential Films: *Sila*, *Flow* | CP: Claeys  
CP: Caney  
Clapham: Chapter 7  
Van Arsdale, Chapter 2  
[Farmer]  
[Levy] |

#### July 27: - Session 10

| Torture and Deprivation | Potential Film: *Zimbardo Speaks* | Clapham: Chap 4 & 5  
NGO Web Sites |

#### August 1: - Session 11

| Genocide and violence | Assignment #3 Part B | Van Arsdale: Chapters 3, 4, & 5  
CP: George  
[Tucker] |

#### August 3: - Session 12

| Death Penalty and the Right to Die with Dignity | Clapham: Chapter 9 and Final Remarks  
[Michael, 2014] |

#### August 8: - Session 13

| Conclusion: where to Human Rights? | Assignment #3 Part C  
Final Exam: Take Home: Due Aug 15 | CP: Douzinas  
EP: Kurasawa  
Van Arsdale: Chapter 6 |

### Assigned Articles/Chapters on Reserve:


### Assignment Texts: (on reserve or online)


Joas, Hans. *The Sacredness of the Person: A New Genealogy of Human Rights*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press; 2013. (This is available through the library as an eBook.)


**Evaluation:**

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<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Ponderation</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment #1 Film analysis and discussion</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>July 4, 2017</td>
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<td>Assignment #2 Reflection Paper (10%) and Midterm (10%)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>July 18, 2017</td>
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<td>Assignment #3 Group work and Individual Paper</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part A: Chapter outline (5%)</td>
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<td>July 11, 2017</td>
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<td>Part B: Book Review and Final Outlines (15%)</td>
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<td>August 1, 2017</td>
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<td>Part C: Analytical paper (25%)</td>
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<td>August 8, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation and attendance</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam (take home)</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>August 15, 2017; 3 PM</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
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**Given the intense nature of this course, late assignments will not be accepted.**

**Assignment #1: Group Class Project 5% July 4**

Using the film you selected, prior to beginning the course, you and the others who chose the same film will discuss it in class providing ideas about the answers to the questions that were posed. After the class discussions, the group should develop a **1-3 page (300-900 words) brief summary of the film discussing the most relevant questions you think should be used to analyze the film in relation to human rights.**

**Assignment #2: Reflection Paper (10%) and Midterm-(10%) July 18**

This is a combined assignment.

**First:** You will prepare a 3-4-page written (700-900 words) reflection or initial response to the reading material, lectures, and films from the first weeks of class. This will provide you an opportunity to review the material and reflect on your personal experiences, observations, and knowledge concerning issues of human rights in Canada and elsewhere. **Second:** In class you will answer a question or questions on the class material to date. Both parts will be handed in.

**Assignment #3: Group Work and Individual Work:**

This assignment involves close reading, discussion, and literature review focused on a particular text. Each of you will choose and sign up for a particular text,. You will form a group to engage with this text and discuss the assignment, which involves 3 parts.
**Contemporary Issues in Human Rights**

**Part A:** Each member of the group will be responsible for providing an outline for one of the chapters. This will be submitted on the due date with one copy for the professor and one for each group member. This will be worth 5%. **July 11**

**Part B:** As a group you will critique and analyze the book, revising the various outlines, and developing a statement concerning the perspectives(s) the text offers and its usefulness in helping you understand certain issues in human rights. **15% This Statement will be presented to the class and both the statement and the outlines will be handed in as a hard copy as well as an electronic version to be shared with the class. August 1**

**Part C: Final Paper**

Based on your careful study of the text you chose, you will develop an analytical paper that reviews the course material in relation to this text and in relation to the broader issues in human rights. You will be required to use at least three (3) of the required course materials and at least one (1) of the other recommended texts in your review. You may choose a particular issue raised in the text and analyze the issue (ie, take it apart and examine each component based on the question you are interested in). You may use any additional resources. The paper should be **1800-2000 words (excluding bibliography; min 1.5 spacing, 12 pt font).** The objective will be for you to demonstrate a clear understanding of the issue and the texts/articles. Your discussion should be clear and well-structured with solid introductory and concluding arguments/points. Your paper should be proofed and edited, avoiding any presentation errors. **August 8**

**Other Recommended Articles and Texts, including Course Pack References:**


Available online through the library


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Macdonald, D; Wilson, D. Shameful Neglect; Indigenous Child Poverty in Canada. May 2016
https://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/reports/shameful-neglect


Stern, SJ; Straus, S. The Human Rights Paradox. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press; 2014. Available online through the library


VanArsdale, PW. Forced to Flee: Human Right and Human Wrongs in Refugee Homelands, Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield; 2006
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Online resources


Amnesty International Canada
https://www.amnesty.ca/our-work

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: Issues

Recommended Reading for Writing and Academic Success:


General Information:

Student attendance, participation, and questions are expected at all lectures. (loss of 1 pt/randomly recorded absence) Students should be prepared to comment on and discuss the readings each week. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get materials, assignments, and class notes from other students and to review any films on your own. It is recommended that you find a class partner.

Late arrivals may disturb others; please refrain, unless you have permission from the instructor.

All assignments are to be handed in on the due date.

Plagiarism: Please NOTE: The Academic Code of Conduct defines plagiarism as "the presentation of the work of another person as one's own or without proper acknowledgement." The same rules apply to other created works such as websites and require relevant citations. Plagiarism is a serious offence and will be prosecuted according to University policy. Therefore: **DO NOT COPY, PARAPHRASE OR TRANSLATE ANYTHING FROM ANYWHERE WITHOUT SAYING FROM WHERE YOU OBTAINED IT!** In addition, although the Internet is a wonderful resource – the use of Wiki as reference material is not accepted. All academic papers can be accessed through the library.

Grading Guidelines:

Criteria:

A: Outstanding (80-100). Superior work in both content and presentation. This mark is reserved for work that goes beyond the basic requirements of the assignment. The paper or exam must be exceptionally well written and any visual material imaginative and well executed. The topic must be covered through effective research, excellent references, and a creative, reflective, and analytical approach.

B: Above Average: (70-79) Better than average in both content and presentation. Good understanding of material. Clear and orderly presentations indicating an ability to apply information and concepts to the material, with competent research and clear analysis. It is a carefully written work that demonstrates knowledge of reading assignments and classroom material.

C: Satisfactory: Adequate grasp of material (60-69). Reasonably clear presentation that is somewhat coherent and orderly. However, errors in presentation that reveal limitations in writing, use of sources, or effective execution diminish the quality of the work.

D: Minimally Satisfactory (50-60): Evidence of course work and involvement in classes, but inadequate understanding and/or expression. Work does not demonstrate coherence or organization and is hampered by presentation errors.

F: Failure <50: Did not attend most classes/did not do assignments and is unable to demonstrate understanding of the material. Work has major errors of style and structure; in addition, ideas are not clear, generally because supporting evidence for arguments or analyses is lacking; may include plagiarism or multiple submissions.