

A-ANTH 4344 On-Line Human Rights & Social Justice

Fall 2013

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Office Hours: MW 2:30-3:30, Tu 5:00-6:00

Course Description

This course examines human rights in the modern international community. Topics include the nature of rights, the politics of rights statements, the rationale for including and excluding certain rights, the philosophical derivation of human rights, human rights violations, and the monitoring and enforcement of human rights in the contemporary world. Students will search, discover, and analyze rights of various kinds in specific states or regions of the world.

Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe and analyze the history of human rights in order to explain the politics of the modern formulation of human rights standards.
2. Discuss the content of human rights statements in order to explicate rights and classify rights by type.
3. Analyze the nature of rights statements in order to put human rights in perspective.
4. Discuss and evaluate the derivations and justifications for human rights in order to identify defensible justifications.
5. Describe human rights in non-Western and Third World societies in order to explain problems in implementation and monitoring.
6. Describe the roles of the United Nations and NGO's in implementation rights in order to evaluate the successes and failures in their implementation.
7. Describe and analyze cases of human rights violations in order to evaluate the penetration of human rights into state systems.
8. Describe monitoring of human rights violations by the United Nations and NGO's in order to analyze and explain successes and failures in monitoring.
9. Describe enforcement of human rights by the United Nations and NGO's in order to evaluate successes and failures in enforcement.
10. Describe human rights in U.S. foreign policy in order to analyze reasons for shifts in policy.
11. Demonstrate research skills in using libraries and the World Wide Web.
12. Demonstrate skills in Web site evaluation in order to produce high-quality and reliable research information.

Course Materials

The student will read the following books:

Donnelly, Jack. *International Human Rights*. 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press, 2013.

Fagan, Andrew. *The Atlas of Human Rights*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010.

Friedman, Lauri S., ed. *Human Rights: Opposing Viewpoints*. Detroit: Thomson/Gale, 2008.

The student also will monitor popular media for human rights stories, read journals such as *Human Rights Quarterly* and *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, and will examine and evaluate sites on the World Wide Web.

Course Requirements

The student is expected to log on to the discussion group at least three times per week and participate in the on-line discussions. Participation should demonstrate understanding of the readings and of other students' posts. Opinions expressed will not count as a post unless they are bolstered by reasoned argumentation and reference to relevant data.

The instructor will post a question to the discussion group by Sunday afternoon of each week and will sometimes, but not always, post a follow-up or related question by the following Wednesday. The instructor also will post a weekly summary response to the previous week's discussions.

Each week, after posting a response pertaining to the question the instructor posted on Sunday, the student must also respond to the posts of at least three other students. The response must be substantive, not simply "I agree" or "I disagree."

The first response must be posted by noon on Wednesday and the final post by 6 P.M. Saturday.

Every week each student is required to find additional information on the week's topic, post the URL, and discuss the content of the web site or hard copy source.

Human Rights Courses Projects

Groups of three students will pick a human rights problem and research it during the semester. There will be three written reports. The first will outline and describe the problem, the second will report on steps being taken by governments, NGOs, and individuals to ameliorate it, and the third will consist of an action plan to address the problem more effectively. The action plan is the major report for the class.

The action plan will consist of an explanation of what should be done about the human rights issue, who will be responsible for it, how it will be financed, how opponents can be won over, and an explanation of how the plan might have to be modified in order for it to be enacted. It will build on and incorporate the previous two reports. It will be based on substantial research sometimes including interviews, will include source notes following the MLA style sheet or other recognized style sheets, and will be 12-15 pages long including the Works Cited pages(s).

MLA Students

MLA students are required to conduct three individual short research papers on human rights in particular countries— Iran, Chile, Mexico, Nigeria, India, etc. Each paper should be 6-8 pages long with source notes and a Works Cited page.

Grading

The point distribution for the course is:

POSTS

Original posts to the discussion forum----25%

Response to other students' posts----20%

Posting of weekly research----15%

Posting of three research reports—1st and 2nd reports 10% each, final report 20%

Failure to respond to each week's question and at least two other students' responses will result in a grade of F for that week's work. Because of the nature of discussion in the course, it will not ordinarily be possible to make up work missed. If extreme circumstances necessitate missing a week's posts, special arrangements can be made with the instructor.

The group projects must reflect the work of all three team members.

MLA STUDENTS

MLA students will complete the same assignments but will also conduct and post three individual research projects on human rights in specific countries—Israel/Palestine, Myanmar, Russia, China, etc.

MLA grading weights are:

Original posts to the discussion forum----10%

Response to other students' posts----10%

Posting of weekly research----10%

Individual research projects—30%

Posting of three research reports—1st and 2nd reports 10% each, final report 20%

Special Circumstances

If the student has a specific physical, psychiatric, or learning disability and require accommodations, please let the instructor know early in the semester so that learning needs may be met appropriately. The student will need to provide documentation of the disability to the Student Planning and Support offices on the ground floor of Moody Hall. Tutors trained in working with students with disabling conditions are available to assist you with study skills and mastery of course content.

Hours Required to Complete the Course

The course runs for 13 weeks and during most weeks you will need to complete (R)eading, (P)osting, (W)riting, and (Res)earch. The average student will spend about 135 hrs. completing the course. Rough estimates of average time per week follow. Sept. 2: R=3hrs., Res= 9. Sept. 9: P=2 hrs., R=6 hrs.. Sept. 16: P=2 hrs., R=4 hr. Sept. 23: P= 3 hrs., R= 4 hrs.,Res=8 hrs. Sept. 30: P=3 hrs., R=5 hrs., W=3hrs. Oct. 7: R=3 hrs., P=2hr. Oct. 14: P=4 hrs., R=4 hrs. Oct. 21: R= 6 hrs, P=2 hrd., Res=8 hrs., W=5 hrs. Oct. 28: P=2 hrs., R=6 hr. Nov. 4: R= 4hrs., P= 2 hr., Res= 6hrs. Nov. 11: R= 2 hr., P=3 hr., Res=5 hrs. Nov. 25: R= 3hrs., P= 2 hrs., Res=2 hrs.. Dec. 2: R=3 hr., P=4hrs., W=5 hrs.

Calendar & Assignments

Week of September 2

Class: Study syllabus and post an introduction to the discussion forum.

Assignment for September 9: Read the U.S. Bill of Rights, research one of the rights.

Week of September 9

Class: Bill of Rights

Assignments for September 16: Donnelly Ch. 1; Friedman, Ch. 1, articles 1-4; Fagan pt. 1

Week of September 16

Class: Modern human rights, health care, water

Assignments for September 23: Read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights; Fagan pt. 2

Week of September 23

Class: International human rights; the "Southern Cone"

Assignment for September 30: First group reports due

Week of September 30

Class: First group reports

Assignments for October 7: Friedman Ch. 1, articles 5-6; Fagan pt. 3; first MLA reports due

Week of October 7

Class: abortion rights, MLA reports

Assignment for October 14: Donnelly chs. 2-3.

Week of October 14

Class: Theories of human rights

Assignment for October 21: Second group reports due.

Week of October 21

Class: Second group reports

Assignment for October 28: Friedman, Ch. 2, articles 1-4; Fagan pt. 4; second MLA reports due

Week of October 28

Class: U.S. and China, second MLA reports

Assignment for November 4: Donnelly chs. 5-6; Friedman ch. 2 articles 5-6; Fagan pt. 5

Week of November 4

Class: human rights regimes, foreign policy, Islam

Assignment for November 11: Donnelly chs. 8-10; Friedman ch. 3 articles 5-6; Fagan pts. 6-7

Week of November 11

Class: Genocide, globalization, terrorism, sweatshops

Assignment for November 25: Research refugee cases; Fagan pt. 6; third MLA reports due

Week of November 18—Break for Thanksgiving**Week of November 25— Class: Refugees; third MLA reports**

Assignment for December 2: Third group reports

Week of December 2: Class: Third group reports

