INTS 4940
Jack Donnelly
Introduction to Human Rights
Fall 2005

This course provides a theoretical and historical introduction to human rights, on the premise that a sound understanding of contemporary practice and debates requires grounding in their historical and theoretical roots and foundations. The course will be taught entirely in a free form discussion format. I will never lecture -- although you can be assured that I will have plenty to say in the course of our discussions! Typically, I will begin class by asking "Where do you want to start today?" and then let the discussion flow from there (with a greater or lesser degree of channeling and redirection). For the class to work, it is essential that you have not only read but thought about the readings for that week. You will be required to shoulder the burden of an active role in the direction that the course unfolds. In return, though, you are assured that if there is an issue that interests, excites, or bothers you, we will be able to devote considerable time and attention to it.

I have ordered five books that are available for purchase in the Bookstore. Jack Donnelly, *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice* (2nd edition) [abbreviated UHR2e below]; Micheline Ishay *The History of Human Rights;* Patrick Hayden (ed.), *The Philosophy of Human Rights;* Marina Svensson, *Debating Human Rights in China;* and Alison Brysk, *Human Rights and Private Wrongs.* Much additional reading is available on reserve (whenever possible, electronic reserve). (If you are short of book money, you will get the most immediate use out of the Donnelly and Ishay volumes. Hayden is a superb collection that belongs on any human rights bookshelf, but we won't use all that much of it directly in the course. The Svensson and Brysk volumes are very good, but used for only a single class each; you might want to save some money by Xeroxing the library copy.)

Grades will be based on either a) a final paper of approximately 25-30 pages, on a topic of your choice or b) three shorter papers (5, 10, and 15 pages) on assigned topics due the fourth, eighth, and eleventh weeks of the quarter. Participation in class (quality not quantity) will be taken into account when determining whether or not to round up on the final grade, and, in exceptional circumstances, may even raise (but not lower) the final grade by a "+".

Readings by class follow. Do not attempt to do more than the required reading. Recommended reading is listed largely for future reference. In general, it is preferable to do the reading in the order listed in the syllabus; many weeks that will make your life substantially easier.

September 15: Introduction
The English Bill of Rights
Declaration of Independence of the United States of America
The Bill of Rights of the United States of America
French Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen
Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

**September 22: Rights and Human Rights**

Jack Donnelly, *UHR2e*, ch. 1, 2..


Martha Nussbaum, "Capabilities and Human Rights," in Hayden.

Steven Lukes, "Five Fables about Human Rights," in Hayden.


Recommended:


Peter Jones, *Rights*.


Thomas Pogge, "How Should Human Rights Be Conceived?" Patrick Hayden (ed.), *The Philosophy of Human Rights*.


Maurice Cranston, What are Human Rights?

R. J. Vincent, Human Rights and International Relations, ch. 1.


Morton E. Winston (ed.), The Philosophy of Human Rights

September 29: Human Rights and Western Liberalism

Ishay, History of Human Rights, ch. 2.

Donnelly, UHR2e, ch. 1-3.


October 6: Socialism and Economic and Social Rights

Ishay, History of Human Rights, ch. 3.

Donnelly, UHR2e, pp. 27-33.

Donnelly, *UHR2e*, ch. 11.

**October 13: Self-Determination and Group Rights**


Morsink, ch. 3.


James Crawford, "The Rights of Peoples: 'Peoples' or 'Governments'," in Patrick Hayden (ed.), *The Philosophy of Human Rights*.


*Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National, Ethnic, Religious or Linguistic Minorities*  
*Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*

**October 20: Cultural Relativism**

The literature on human rights and cultural relativism is immense. I am well aware that there is too much reading for this week, but É

**A. Required Reading**

* Adamantia Pollis, "Liberal, Socialist, and Third World Perspectives on Human Rights," in Peter Schwab and Adamantia Pollis, eds., Toward a Human Rights Framework

* Read any three articles from EB.


* UHR2e, ch. 3, 5, 6.


B. Non-Western Conceptions of Human Rights


Ralph Buultjens, "Human Rights in Indian Political Culture," in Thompson.


C. Recommended Reading


Norani Othman, "Grounding Human Rights Arguments in Non-Western Culture: Shari'a and the Citizenship Rights of Women in a Modern Islamic State," in Bauer and Bell.


**October 27: Debating Human Rights in China**

Marina Svensson, *Debating Human Rights in China*, ch. 4-7, 9-12.

**November 3: Human Rights and Private Wrongs**


**November 10: Challenges to Human Rights**


Recommended:

Costas Douzinas, *The End of Human Rights*.

Michael Ignatieff, *Human Rights as Politics and Idolatry*.


Mary Ann Glendon, *Rights Talk: The Impoverishment of Political Discourse*.

Ian Shapiro, *The Evolution of Rights in Liberal Theory*.


Henry B. Veatch, *Human Rights: Fact or Fancy?*


**November 17: The Dark Sides of Virtue**