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INTERNATIONAL SUMMER UNIVERSITY MACEDONIA

ISUM 2008 Ohrid - Macedonia

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE:

Global Human Rights Instruments.

COURSE PROFESSOR:

Gabriele Simoncini

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course provides a survey and analysis of political, economic, social, and cultural aspects of human rights: the problems and challenges of setting and upholding universal standards of respect for international human rights in contemporary world politics. Particular consideration will be given to the difficult tasks of defining and protecting universal principles of human rights, of considering the different cultural and theoretical approaches to these rights, and of creating effective methods of monitoring and enforcing human rights standards.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this module students should be able to:

- critically analyze processes and concepts of global human rights;
- be able to contextualize and explain the process of global human rights development, related political phenomena, and to be able to relate these to current human rights politics;
- critically analyse the changing realities of global human rights.

COURSE LEVEL:

BA

COURSE LEVEL:

Basic

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

None

COURSE LITERATURE AND MATERIALS:

Textbook:

- Donnelly J., *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice*. Ithaca, 2003.

Readings:

- Churchill R. P., *Human Rights and Global Diversity*. Upper Saddle River NJ, 2006.
- Smith R. K. M., *Textbook on International Human Rights*. Oxford, 2007.
- Claphman A., *Human Rights. A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford, 2007.
- Maxwell J. A., Friedberg J. J., *Human Rights in Western Civilization: 1600 to Present*. New York, 1999.
- Ishay M., *The History of Human Rights: from Ancient Times to the Globalization Era*. Berkeley, 2004.

Materials:

- Ghandhi P. R., *Blackstone's International Human Rights Documents*. Oxford, 2006.
- Human Rights Watch, *World Report*. New York, 2007.
- Human Rights related documents and materials downloaded daily from Internet.

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS:

Lectures, discussions, presentations, case studies, reports, guest speakers, fieldwork, audiovisual materials. Extensive use of Information and Communication Technology.

ASSESSMENT (manner(s) in which examination takes place):

A student presentation (MS Power Point format) presented during the course will be assessed. A research project with final paper will be evaluated during the final evaluation session.

ECTS CREDITS

Category of workload hours	Hours per day	No. of days	Total hours per course
Class hours	6	11	66
Fieldwork			
Reading	2	10	20
Home Assignments	1	10	10
Preparation for examinations	1	8	8
Examinations	4	1	4
TOTAL			108

27 hours = 1 ECTS credit

ECTS credits for this course: 4 / 27 = 1 full academic year = 60 credits

SYLLABUS

Class 1:

Topic: The Concept of Human Rights. The Universal Declaration Model.

Questions: How Rights work. The question of Foundation. Individual rights.

In-class activities: Lecture, Discussion, presentations, audiovisual materials.

Required reading: *Donnelly*, pp.1-37. *Assigned readings (Human Rights documents from Internet).*

Assignments: Reports. Fieldwork.

Class 2:

Topic: Moral Theory, Political Theory, and Human Rights.

Questions: Hegemony and norms. Equal concern. Liberal theory of Rights.

In-class activities: Lecture, Discussion, presentations, audiovisual materials.

Required reading: *Donnelly*, pp.38-53. *Assigned readings (Human Rights documents from Internet).*

Assignments: Reports. Fieldwork.

Class 3:

Topic: The Evolution of Human Rights.

Questions: Political equality. The West. Global markets.

In-class activities: Lecture, Discussion, presentations, audiovisual materials.

Required reading: *Donnelly*, pp.57-70. *Assigned readings (Human Rights documents from Internet).*

Assignments: Reports. Fieldwork.

Class 4:

Topic: Non-western Concepts of Human Rights.

Questions: Islam. Traditional Africa. Confucian China.

In-class activities: Lecture, Discussion, presentations, audiovisual materials.

Required reading: *Donnelly*, pp.71-89. *Assigned readings (Human Rights documents from Internet).*

Assignments: Reports. Fieldwork.

Class 5:

Topic: Cultural Relativism and Universal Human Rights.

Questions: Relativity and universalism. Culturalist arguments.

In-class activities: Lecture, Discussion, presentations, audiovisual materials.

Required reading: *Donnelly*, pp.89-123. *Assigned readings (Human Rights documents from Internet).*

Assignments: Reports. Interviews. Fieldwork.

Class 6:

Topic: International Human Rights Regimes.

Questions: Political foundation of the Global Regime. Regional Human Rights Regimes.

In-class activities: Lecture, Discussion, presentations, audiovisual materials.

Required reading: *Donnelly*, pp.127-154. *Assigned readings (Human Rights documents from Internet).*

Assignments: Reports. Fieldwork.

Class 7:

Topic: Human Rights and Foreign Policy.

Questions: National Identity. The limits of International Action.

In-class activities: Lecture, Discussion, presentations, audiovisual materials.

Required reading: *Donnelly*, pp.155-181. *Assigned readings (Human Rights documents from Internet).*

Assignments: Reports. Fieldwork.

Class 8:

Topic: Democracy, Development and Human Rights.

Questions: Defining democracy. Development and civic and political rights.

In-class activities: Lecture, Discussion, presentations, audiovisual materials.

Required reading: *Donnelly*, pp.185-203. *Assigned readings (Human Rights documents from Internet).*

Assignments: Reports. Fieldwork.

Class 9:

Topic: Group Rights and Human Rights.

Questions: Individual and community. Protecting group identity.

In-class activities: Lecture, Discussion, presentations, audiovisual materials.

Required reading: *Donnelly*, pp.204-224. *Assigned readings (Human Rights documents from Internet).*

Assignments: Reports. Fieldwork.

Class 10:

Topic: Non-discrimination.

Questions: Sexual minorities. Nature and public morals.

In-class activities: Lecture, Discussion, presentations, audiovisual materials.

Required reading: *Donnelly*, pp.225-241. *Assigned readings (Human Rights documents from Internet).*

Assignments: Reports. Fieldwork.

Class 11:

Topic: Genocide and Humanitarian Intervention.

Questions: Security and sovereignty. Politics and the authority to intervene.

In-class activities: Lecture, Discussion, presentations, audiovisual materials.

Required reading: *Donnelly*, pp.242-260. *Assigned readings (Human Rights documents from Internet).*

Assignments: Reports. Fieldwork.
