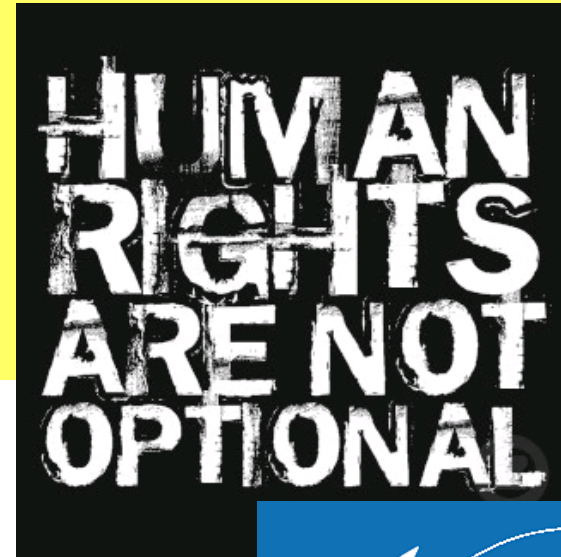
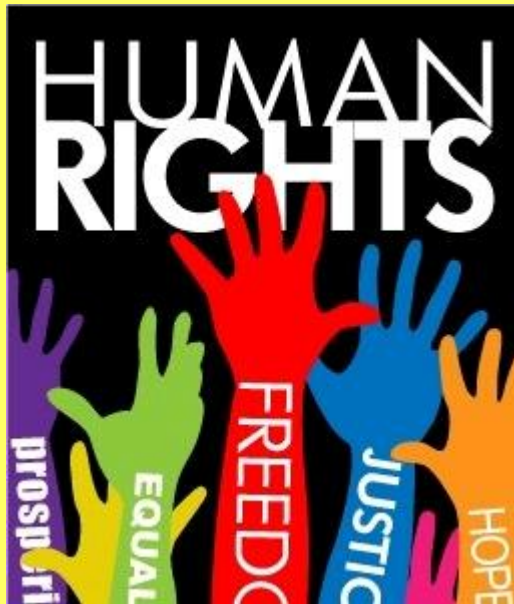


Human Rights & the Politics of Culture



Human Rights & the Politics of Culture

Learning Outcomes

1. To describe the particular contribution that anthropological knowledge makes to understanding the relation between human rights as legal rules and their circulation in diverse social contexts
2. To demonstrate detailed knowledge of current anthropological understandings of culture and how they relate to the employment of strategic essentialism in identity politics
3. To assess the relative strengths of anthropological approaches to human rights (with their particular attention to context) in relation to other approaches (law, international relations etc.)
4. To relate the universal claims of human rights to context specific understandings of childhood, gender, and indigeneity
5. To appraise different forms of multiculturalism; as project of recognition through differentiation or recognition through evolving hybridity

Generic outcomes

1. An understanding of appropriate note taking approaches and use of internet resources.
2. An ability to prepare and deliver class presentations and engage in informed seminar discussion.
3. The ability to produce correct referencing and bibliographies.
4. Understanding of how to choose and research an extended essay (minors) or dissertation (majors) topic; prepare and structure assessed written work showing clear organisation and consistent argument and the proper utilisation of literature.

Human Rights & the Politics of Culture

Course Overview

The module will introduce you to debates in 'the politics of difference' as they relate to human rights. We begin by examining the genealogy of the concept of culture in the twentieth-century and look at the diverse political uses to which it has been put, from being part of the discourse of the European far-right to granting greater rights for minorities that were previously politically marginalised. We consider the cultural relativist challenge to universal human rights which asserts the distinctiveness of each 'culture' and that universal human rights instruments are, therefore, inappropriate. We then assess the view that globalisation in general, and especially the globalisation of a human rights discourse, means that relativist views of societal distinctiveness no longer hold in an increasingly interconnected world. Subsequent weeks are concerned with specific instances of rights and difference, including minority rights, indigenous rights and women's human rights. We conclude by returning to the liberal tradition to ask whether or not revised forms of liberalism ('multiculturalism') can provide the answer to the problem of difference in modern societies.

Human Rights & the Politics of Culture

Week 1 The International Human Rights System

Week 2 The Politics of Culture

Week 3 Universalism, Relativism and Human Rights

Week 4 The Globalization of Human Rights

Week 5 Children's Rights

Week 6 Consolidation Week (no seminar)

Week 7 Media, Human Rights and Advocacy

Week 8 'Indigenous' Rights

Week 9 Gender and Rights

Week 10 Multiculturalism

Week 11 Assessment workshop

Week 12 End of term tutorial

Human Rights & the Politics of Culture

Teaching:

3 hour weekly seminar

Assessment:

5,000 word term paper

Human Rights & the Politics of Culture

Course Tutor

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