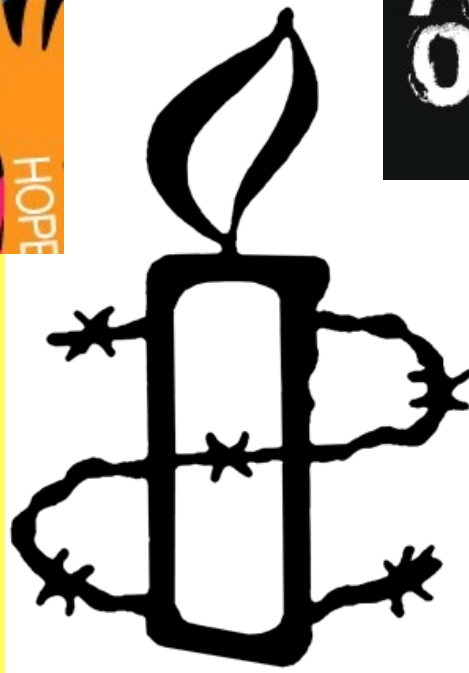
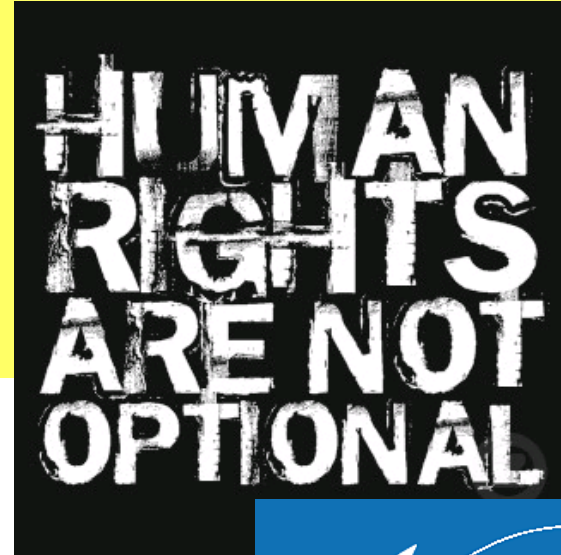


Human Rights

3rd Year Advanced Option



Human Rights

3rd Year Advanced Topic

30 Credits

Learning Outcomes

1. A knowledge of historical, sociological and legal aspects of human rights: including natural rights; debates over universalism and cultural relativism; group rights; gender and rights; truth commissions; and international humanitarian law.
2. A knowledge of the core reading, with appreciation of the subtlety of debates or different interpretations that might be drawn from particular literature.
3. An understanding of how to write a non-contributory essay (minors and majors), an extended assessed essay (minors) or dissertation (majors) showing signs of structure and organization, the proper utilisation of literature and the formation of an argument.
4. Correct referencing and bibliographies.
5. An understanding of how to take notes in class and from reading, and how to access and use internet source materials.

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

Module Overview

With the adoption by the United Nations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, every human was declared to have a set of innate and inalienable human rights (i.e. they cannot be given away or taken away). In the following years a complex system of human rights conventions has established a global system for implementing human rights which, assisted by NGOS, has turned human rights into a global discourse, but one which is transformed as it is applied to particular circumstances. This module explores the relationship between the universal aspirations of human rights and the 'friction' (Tsing 2004) and 'vernacularisation' (Merry 2009) that occurs when these aspirations are applied to particular locations and to particular categories of persons (women, children); asks whether human rights are antagonistic to other cultures (cultural relativism), but also how human rights may generate and protect (essentialist) cultures (indigenous peoples, 'difference' multiculturalism; minorities); and, how rights are always enabling, but are also restrictive (asylum and refugees). Finally, the module considers the strengths and weaknesses of the two main responses to the massive violation of human rights: criminal trials (international tribunals) and the politics of memorialisation.

Human Rights

Session 1 – Introduction & Overview of the Historical Emergence of Human Rights

Session 2 – The United Nations Human Rights System

Session 3 – Cultural Relativism vs. Universal Rights

Session 4 – Are there ‘Group rights’?

Session 5 – Gender and Rights

Session 6 – Social and Economic Rights

Session 7 – The Right to Refuge and Asylum

Session 8 – International Criminal Tribunals

Session 9 – Memorialisation of Human Rights Violations

Session 10 - One-to-one Tutorials

Session 11 – Dissertation workshop

Session 12 – One-to-one tutorial

Human Rights

Teaching:

1 hour weekly lecture (Weeks 1-9)

2 hour weekly seminar (Weeks 1-9)

Week 8 Submission of 2 page dissertation proposal

Week 10 One-to-one tutorial

Week 11 Essay Writing Workshop

Week 12 One-to-one tutorial

Human Rights

Essay (5,000 words)

These can be on any subject related to human rights and are not restricted to the subjects that we consider in the lecture and seminar.

See the next slide for a list of recent titles.

Dissertation Titles from 2016:

- The price to pay for a good death: Suicide tourism and the inadequacies of Britain's 'not in my backyard' approach to assisted suicide.
- How gender discourses act as structural violence when looking at transgender persons in the US.
- Undefined terms? Are alternative framings of sexual orientation more effective than human rights at protecting sexual minorities?
- Abortion law in Northern Ireland: Exploring the relationship between stigma and reproductive rights.
- Can the banning of surrogacy be classed as a human rights violation?
- Is the prevalent narrative of child soldiers as coerced victims adequate for contemporary conflicts?
- What effect do humanitarian crises have on the practice of child marriage and is the international development response adequate?
- The Northern Ireland 'Gay Cake Case'.
- The Right to Education in Conflict Zones: Palestine.
- Enforced Disappearance and Extraordinary Rendition: Booksellers' Disappearance in Thailand and Hong Kong
- Effectiveness of the 2008 federal ban on FGM in Egypt.
- Do human rights-based approaches contribute to help marginalised groups of people with disabilities in Developing Countries enjoy their human rights?

Human Rights

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