

Philosophical Foundations of Human Rights  
Spring 2009

Lecturer: Ben Laurence  
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Syllabus of Readings

Week 1: Stoic Cosmopolitanism

Tuesday March 31  
Introductions

Thursday April 2  
Cicero, *On Obligations* Book I, Sections 1-59, Book III, Sections 20-32

Week 2: Kant on International Justice

Tuesday April 7  
Immanuel Kant, *Perpetual Peace*, 92-103  
Martha Nussbaum, "Kant and Stoic Cosmopolitanism"

Thursday April 9  
Immanuel Kant, *On the Common Saying*, 61-63, 87-92  
Immanuel Kant, *Perpetual Peace*, 116-125

Week 3: The Contemporary Discourse of Human Rights

Tuesday April 14  
The Universal Declaration on Human Rights  
Maurice Cranston, "Human Rights, Real and Supposed"

Thursday April 16  
Thomas Pogge, "How should Human Rights be Conceived?"  
Martha Nussbaum, "Human Rights and Capabilities"

Week 4: Women's Rights as Human Rights

Tuesday April 21  
Martha Nussbaum, *Sex and Social Justice*, Introduction & Chapter 1

Thursday April 23  
Jomo Kenyatta, *Facing Mount Kenya*, xv-xxi, 125-148

Yael Tamir, "Hands Off Cliterodectomy"  
Martha Nussbaum, *Sex and Social Justice*, Chapter 4

Week 5: *The Right not to be Tortured (1)*

Tuesday April 28  
Henry Shue, "Torture"  
Elaine Scarry, *The Body in Pain* Introduction, Chapter 1  
**Paper One is Due in Lecture**

Thursday April 30  
David Sussman, "What's Wrong with Torture"  
Darius Rejali, *Torture and Democracy* Chapter 5

Week 6: *The Right not to be Tortured (2)*

Tuesday May 5  
Alan Dershowitz, *Why Terrorism Works*, 131-164  
David Luban, "Liberalism, Torture and the Ticking Bomb"

Thursday May 7  
Albie Sachs, **TBA**

Week 7: *How to Believe in Human Rights but go Right on Violating Them*

Tuesday May 12  
Michael Walzer, "Political Action: The Problem of Dirty Hands"

Thursday May 14  
Thomas Pogge, *World Poverty and Human Rights*, Chapter 3  
Cicero, *On Obligations*, Book III

Week 8: *Global Economic Justice (1)*

Tuesday May 19  
Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence and Morality"  
Thomas Pogge, *World Poverty and Human Rights* Introduction

Thursday May 21  
Thomas Pogge, *World Poverty and Human Rights*, Chapter 4 & 7

Week 9: *Global Economic Justice (2)*

Tuesday May 26  
Thomas Nagel, "The Problem of Global Justice"

Thursday May 28  
“Nagel’s Atlas”, A.J. Julius

Week 10: *Wrapping It Up*

Tuesday June 2  
To Be Determined  
**Paper Two is Due in Lecture**