



Human Rights Courses: Autumn 2009

Human Rights I: Philosophical Foundations of Human Rights

HMRT 20100/30100 (=PHIL 21700/31600, HIST 29301/39301, ISHU 28700/38700, INRE 31600, LAWS 41200, MAPH 40000, LLSO 25100)

Instructor: Samuel Fleischacker, Visiting Professor, Philosophy

Monday: 3:00-5:50 pm

The course aims to help us think philosophically about human rights. We will ask what human rights are, what conception of the human being they presuppose, and whether they can be derived from a more general moral theory. We'll also ask whether human rights are universal or merely the product of particular cultures. These questions have arisen repeatedly in practice and we will consider them by way of the arguments actually made by participants in three crucial events in the history of human rights: the adoption of the American Bill of Rights, French Declaration of the Rights of Man, and Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A central theme of the class will be the degree to which philosophy can help us sort through the arguments over human rights.

Accountability for International Human Rights Abuses

HMRT 26101/36101 (=LAWS 41100)

Instructor: Helene Silverberg, Visiting Lecturer, Human Rights Program

Monday-Wednesday: 1:30-2:50 pm

Since the 1990s, the demand for accountability for international human rights violations has dramatically increased throughout the world. But what form should accountability take? Should accountability ever give way to other important goals, such as national reconciliation or political stability? What roles should international tribunals play in holding perpetrators accountable? When, if ever, should the courts of one country initiate legal proceedings concerning human rights violations that occurred in another? Can the requirement that perpetrators disclose the truth about abuses ever adequately substitute for criminal prosecutions?

This interdisciplinary course explores current developments in the global campaign to hold both individuals and corporations accountable for human rights abuses. The course will examine the legal principles and political considerations governing accountability for human rights abuses, the challenges and limitations of prosecuting them through international tribunals and national courts, and several alternatives to prosecution such as truth commissions, amnesties and lustration.

Human Rights: An Anthropological Perspective

HMRT 26200 (=ANTH 25215)

Instructor: Noa Vaisman, Human Rights Lecturer

Tuesday-Thursday: 1:30-2:50 pm

The course offers an entry point into the world of human rights from an anthropological perspective. In this course we explore what human rights are and how they have been defined, argued with, and fought for in different parts of the world and in different historical epochs. Ethnographic accounts and case studies will serve to illustrate the complexities of the discourse and fight for human rights. The course is built on three modules the first looks at how human rights have been defined over the years; the second looks at how these human rights have been fought for in different socio-cultural contexts; the third looks at the different mechanism of reparation and redress that have been developed in the aftermath of mass violation of human rights.

Maid in America, Made in China: Laboring Women and Workers' Rights in Global Perspective

HMRT 23210 (=HIST 17603, GNDR 23202)

Instructor: Katherine Turk, Graduate Lecturer, Human Rights Program

Tuesday-Thursday: 10:30-11:50 am

In recent decades, an increasing number of poor women worldwide have begun working for a wage. Women's labor has always been essential to the functioning of families and societies. Yet, this work has often either been unpaid—domestic, agricultural, or reproductive—or self-directed. Course readings and lectures will consider women workers' rights and working conditions in societies where women's waged labor is a new phenomenon. We will juxtapose those transforming societies with others that have long had feminized wage labor—particularly the United States. We will examine state, employer and worker conceptions of gender norms, the larger social and cultural consequences of women's presence in the workplace, and women's attempts to fashion identities as wage laborers on their own terms. Coursework will include midterm and final examinations, as well as an original research paper focusing on issues surrounding women and wage work in one or several societies.

The Practice of Human Rights

HMRT 29001/39001

Instructor: Susan Gzesh, Senior Lecturer in the College and Director of the Human Rights Program

Tuesday-Thursday: 4:30-5:50 pm

PQ: Must have completed a Human Rights Program internship or receive permission from instructor

The Practice of Human Rights is a limited-enrollment seminar for students who have completed a Human Rights Program internship or, through some other University program or on their own, worked in a rights-focused advocacy organization. The course will use an interdisciplinary approach to give students a variety of conceptual frameworks to integrate their field experience into their academic program. The course material will

focus on two major aspects of the internship experience: analysis of the work of “social change” organizations and an evaluation of the student’s personal experience. The first half of the course will be dedicated to readings and discussion. The second half of the course will be dedicated to presentations by the students which will be subject to group critique and discussion.

Topics to be presented will include: the relationship of civil society organizations to the state, intergovernmental agencies, and domestic & international coalitions and networks; the development of the international human rights movement since 1948; the history and role of philanthropic foundations as promoters of social change; the typologies of organizations (social services agencies, grass-roots organizations, issue-driven non-profits, community-based social movements, governmental and intergovernmental human rights agencies, etc.); and organizational processes which develop strategies, tactics, alliances, and campaigns. In addition, the seminar will help students evaluate their personal experiences, taking literature from human development, sociology, and anthropology to discuss such topics as the role of the “outsider,” its advantages and disadvantages; the challenges of cross-cultural factors, international and national perspectives; and negotiating class and gender differences within social change organizations.

Cross-listed Courses:

Anthropology of Disability

HMRT 25210/35210 (=ANTH 20405/30405, SOSC 36900, MAPS 36900, CHDV 30405)

Instructor: Morris Fred, Senior Lecturer, Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences

Thursday: 3:00-5:50 pm

This seminar undertakes to explore “disability” from an anthropological perspective that recognizes it as a socially constructed concept with implications for our understanding of fundamental issues about culture, society, and individual differences. We explore a wide range of theoretical, legal, ethical, and policy issues as they relate to the experiences of persons with disabilities, their families, and advocates. The final project is a presentation on the fieldwork.

Overcoming Torture: Past and Present

HMRT 27300 (=HIST 29507, LLSO 28012)

Instructor: Michael E. Geyer, Faculty Director, Human Rights Program, Samuel N. Harper Professor of German and European History, Department of History

Monday: 9:30-11:50 am

The abolition of torture, as well as cruel and inhuman punishment, is one of the key standards of achievement of the modern era. This discussion course begins with the fact that torture is a remarkably persistent reality in order to explore how, in different times and places, it was contained and how it was overcome (if only temporarily). Classic

European cases feature in the first part of the discussion. Human rights and humanitarian campaigns against torture in the second half of the twentieth century are discussed in the second part. The United States, past and present, is the focus of the third part.

Workshop: Law and Philosophy

HMRT 51301 (=LAWS 61512, PHIL 51200, RETH 51301, GNDR 50101)

Instructor: Martha Nussbaum, Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics and Adam Hosein, Law and Philosophy Fellow

Monday: 4:00-6:00 pm

This year's Law and Philosophy Workshop is on the topic Utilitarianism and the Law. This is a seminar/workshop most of whose participants are faculty from various area institutions. It admits approximately ten students by permission of the instructors. Its aim is to study, each year, a topic that arises in both philosophy and the law and to ask how bringing the two fields together may yield mutual illumination. There are twelve meetings throughout the year, always on Mondays from 4 to 6 PM. Half of the sessions are led by local faculty, half by visiting speakers. The leader assigns readings for the session (which may be by that person, by other contemporaries, or by major historical figures), and the session consists of a brief introduction by the leader, followed by structured questioning by the two faculty coordinators, followed by general discussion. Students write a 20-25 page seminar paper at the end of the year. The course satisfies the Law School Writing Requirement. The schedule of meetings will be announced by mid-September, and prospective students should submit their credentials to both instructors by September 20. Past themes have included: practical reason; equality; privacy; autonomy; global justice; pluralism and toleration; war; sexuality and family. Students are admitted by permission of the instructors. They should submit a c.v. and a statement (reasons for interest in the course, relevant background in law and/or philosophy) by September 20 to Nussbaum by e mail. Usual participants include graduate students in philosophy, political science, and divinity, and law students.

Related Courses:

Rawls on Justice

(PHIL 50309 RETH 51001, PLSC 51001, LAWS 51001)

Martha Nussbaum, Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics

Tuesday: 3:00-5:40 pm

Consent Required

This course will study John Rawls's two great works of political philosophy, *A Theory of Justice* and *Political Liberalism*, trying to understand their argument as well as possible. We will also read other related writings of Rawls and some of the best critical literature. In the latter third of the course we will examine critiques of Rawls from several points of view, including the capabilities approach of Nussbaum and Sen. Prerequisite: This course is open by permission of the instructor, and those who wish to attend should email Professor Nussbaum by September 20, giving an account of your prior preparation in

philosophy. In general, an undergraduate philosophy major or the equivalent preparation is a necessary (though not sufficient) condition, and in some cases she will ask to see a philosophy paper to assess your preparation.