

International Human Rights

University of Utah, Political Philosophy 5710/6710-1

Instructor: Deen Chatterjee

Texts:

1. David A. Reidy and Mortimer N. S. Sellers, eds., *Universal Human Rights: Moral Order in a Divided World* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2005)
2. Deen Chatterjee, ed. *The Ethics of Assistance: Morality and the Distant Needy* (Cambridge, 2004)
3. Deen Chatterjee, ed. *Democracy in a Global World: Human Rights and Political Participation in the 21st Century* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2008)

Reserve (Marriott Library):

Required: Jan Narveson's article: "We Don't Owe Them a Thing!"

Optional: Deen Chatterjee and Don Scheid, eds. *Ethics and Foreign Intervention* (Cambridge, 2003)

Course Description:

This course examines the nature, practice, and limits of human rights in today's global world. Though nearly all nations have pledged to abide by the Charter of the United Nations to promote and safeguard human rights and in spite of the emerging global human-rights culture, the idea of human rights is a hotly contested and polarized concept in the world today. This raises the question whether the claim of universal human rights is an empty rhetoric or whether the differences in interpretation and enforcement across nations and cultures are understandable practical problems in the application of rights. In deciding these questions, the course investigates global realities of politics, law, and culture related to human rights as well as the normative foundations of rights. Through an examination of key topics of current relevance—justice, democracy, poverty and affluence, and war and peace—with contrasting views of the leading theorists, the course addresses the important public and political issues of human rights in today's divided world.

Please Note:

In order to do well in this course, it is important that you stay informed of national and world events. One way to do this is to make a habit of reading on a regular basis a good national newspaper such as The New York Times and an international weekly like The Economist.

#### Schedule:

##### Nature of Human Rights

August 25: Introduction

August 27, Sept. 1, 3: Text 1, ch. 2

Sept. 8: Text 1, ch. 3

Sept. 10, 15, 17: Text 1, ch. 4; Text 2, ch. 11; Text 3, chs. 3, 4

Sept. 22: discussion session

Sept. 24: short quiz

##### Human Rights and Global Justice

Sept. 29: Text 2, ch. 2

Oct. 1: Narveson article (on reserve)

Oct. 6, 8: Text 2, chs. 6, 7; Text 3, ch. 5;

First Midterm assignment given out on Oct. 8

Oct. 20, 22: Text 2, chs. 8, 13

First Midterm assignment due in class on Oct. 22

##### Practice and Enforcement of Human Rights

Oct. 27, 29: Text 2, chs. 9, 10, 12

Nov. 3, 5: Text 1, chs. 5, 6, 7

Nov. 10: Text 1, ch. 8; recommended: Chatterjee/Scheid, ch. 2

Nov. 12: discussion session

Nov. 17, 19: Text 1, chs. 9, 10, 11, 12; recommended: Chatterjee/Scheid, chs. 11, 13

Second Midterm assignment and term paper topic given out on Nov. 17

##### Development, Democracy, and Human Rights

Nov. 24: Text 3, ch. 1; Second Midterm assignment due in class

Dec. 1: Text 3, chs. 2, 6

Dec. 3: Text 3, chs. 7, 8

Dec. 8: discussion session

Dec. 10: Third Midterm (in class); term paper due in class

#### Classroom Format:

Instruction format will consist of a mixture of lecture and discussion. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in thoughtful class discussion and expected to complete assigned readings well in advance of each class period. Student comments should indicate an evidence of familiarity with reading assignments. Students are expected to bring their texts in class to identify frequent citations of text materials in class lectures.

#### Work Required:

There will be three midterm exams, a term paper (6 pages for 5710, 9 pages for 6710), and a short quiz on pre-assigned dates (see schedule). First two midterms will be take-home assignments (3 pages each for 5710, 5 pages for 6710). Midterm #1 will count 15% toward course grade, #2 20%, #3 25%, term paper 30%, and quiz 10%.

Take-home assignments are to be turned in on due dates and in-class exams are to be taken as assigned. Late assignments (up to 3 days) will be deducted by 10%. No assignment will be accepted after 3 days past the due dates.

The midterms and the paper will be essay exams. Their grades will be determined by the clarity, coherence, and accuracy of ideas and by the depth of analysis. Exam questions will be drawn from class lectures, discussions, and required readings.

#### Please Note:

The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities. Please contact the Center for Disability Services (162 Union Building) if you will need any such accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

The instructor will donate the proceeds from the text royalties received for this course to Best Friends Animal Sanctuary (near Kanab, Utah) or to similar animal welfare organizations.