

Anthropology 150 • Spring 2002
George Washington University
Instructor: Dr. Robert Winthrop

Schedule: Thursday 12:30 - 3:00 PM, CRN 64268
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Human Rights and Ethics

"Human Rights" can be understood as a set of acknowledged principles of international law (such as the prohibition of genocide), as well as a broader set of endorsed values whose implications remain contested or ambiguous (the right to self-determination, the right to culture, the rights of indigenous peoples, the right to development). The field of human rights involves an evolving transnational project to define an ethical baseline for the governance of human society.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserts that "Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community." Nevertheless, universal human rights and community-specific cultural rights are often in tension. In this course we will investigate the opportunities and dilemmas inherent in accommodating cultural pluralism in the context of an emerging human rights system, the power of nation-states, and the pressures of globalization.

Format. The format will balance lectures with class discussion of cases and issues

Goals. The class has three main objectives: provide an introduction to the evolving human rights system; explore the implications of cultural pluralism for human rights; and provide experience in analyzing culturally complex problems of public policy.

Requirements. Class requirements are as follows:


- midterm exam (25 %)
- final exam (35 %)
- five commentaries on the week's readings (suggested length 750 - 1000 words), identifying important issues or problems, and introducing a relevant example (instructions will be provided for the assignments) (40 %)

Optional research paper. Students who would prefer to substitute a research paper for the final exam may do so, with prior permission of the instructor. Those wishing to pursue this option must submit a brief proposal, with key references, by week 4 (Feb. 7).

Regular attendance is expected. Class participation is encouraged. While participation will not be separately graded, the instructor reserves the right to make adjustments to the course grade to reflect thoughtful participation.





Readings. All readings are identified in the course schedule. There are six required books:

- *25 Human Rights Documents* (Columbia Univ., Center for the Study of Human Rights, 1994)
- Michael Perry, *The Idea of Human Rights* (Oxford University Press, 1998)
- Milton Freeman et al., *Inuit, Whaling, and Sustainability* (AltaMira Press, 1998)
- David Crystal, *Language Death* (Cambridge University Press, 2000)
- Susan Okin et al., *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?* (Princeton University Press, 1999)
- Khushwant Singh, *Train to Pakistan* (Grove University Press, 1956)

In addition, a number of shorter readings will be available online through the e-Reserve system of Prometheus, identified in the schedule by . To access this course on Prometheus, your course ID number is 47223; course password is 'anthrights02.' Please contact me immediately if you have difficulties accessing the readings or other materials posted on Prometheus. Readings are listed by week. Please complete all assigned readings by the first class session of that week.






Academic Integrity. GW has clear policies prohibiting academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating. Please respect them.

Contacting the instructor. I encourage you to contact me with questions or comments, or to discuss any matters related to the course. Other than seeing me in my office hours, e-mail probably works best.

	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Readings</i>
Week 1 January 17	Introduction	
Week 2 January 24	Legal Aspects	<i>25 HR Documents</i> , # 1-6 (UN Charter, Universal Declaration, ICESCR, ICCPR with protocols)  European Convention on Human Rights  Primo Levi, <i>Survival in Auschwitz</i> (Macmillan, 1960, pp. 22-37)  Burns Weston, "Human Rights" (R. Claude and B. Weston, eds., <i>Human Rights in the World Community</i> (Univ. Pennsylvania Press, 1992, pp. 14-31)  Calvin Trillin, "Drawing the Line" (<i>New Yorker</i> , Dec. 12, 1994, pp. 50-62)

Week 3 January 31	Philosophical Aspects ⇒ GP 1 COMMENTS	25 HR Documents, # 17 (African Charter) Michael Perry, <i>The Idea of Human Rights</i> (Oxford UP, 1998), pp. 1-94; skim 95-106 📖 Michael Ignatieff, "The Attack on Human Rights" (<i>Foreign Affairs</i> 80 (6): 102-116, Nov./Dec. 2001)
Week 4 February 7	Political Aspects ⇒ GP 2 COMMENTS PROPOSAL FOR OPTIONAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE	25 HR Documents, # 7 (Genocide Convention), #12 (Convention Against Torture), #18 (American Convention on Human Rights), and #21 (Cairo Declaration) 📖 Noam Chomsky, "The United States and the Challenge of Relativity" (Tony Evans, ed., <i>Human Rights Fifty Years On</i> , Manchester UP, 1998, pp. 24-56) 📖 Lutz and Sikkink, "International Human Rights Law and Practice in Latin America" (Judith Goldstein et al., eds., <i>Legalization and World Politics</i> , MIT Press, 2001, pp. 249-75) 📖 Samantha Power, "Bystanders to Genocide" (<i>Atlantic Monthly</i> 288 (2): 84-108, Sept. 2001) 📖 Bartram S. Brown, "The Statute of the ICC: Past, Present, and Future" (Sarah B. Sewall and Carl Kaysen, eds., <i>The United States and the International Criminal Court</i> (Rowman & Littlefield, 2000, pp. 61-84)
Week 5 February 14	Rights of Indigenous Peoples <u>Case study:</u> Inuit whaling ⇒ GP 1 COMMENTS	25 HR Documents, # 8 (Convention on Discrimination) and # 15 (ILO Convention on Indigenous Peoples) M. Freeman et al., <i>Inuit, Whaling, and Sustainability</i> (Introduction, chs. 1-5; ch. 6 optional) 📖 Anne-Christine Bloch, "Minorities and Indigenous Peoples" (Asbjorn Eide et al. eds., <i>Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</i> , Martinus Nijhoff, 1995, pp. 309-21) 📖 G. K. Hovelsrud-Broda, "Arctic Seal-Hunting Households and the Anti-Sealing Controversy" (Barry L. Isaac, ed., <i>Research in Economic Anthropology</i> [JAI Press] 18: 17-34, 1997) 📖 A. Tizon, "E-mails, Phone Messages Full of Threats" (<i>Seattle Times</i> , May 23, 1999)
Week 6 February 21	Rights to Land and Livelihood <u>Case studies:</u> atomic testing, dam construction, mining ⇒ GP 2 COMMENTS	📖 IFC Policy on Involuntary Resettlement: 📖 Stuart Kirsch, "Lost Worlds: Environmental Disaster, 'Culture Loss,' and the Law" (<i>Current Anthropology</i> 42 (2):167-97, 2001) 📖 Ranjit Nayak, "Risks Associated with Landlessness" (Michael Cernea, et al. eds., <i>Risks and Reconstruction</i> , World Bank, 2000, pp. 79-107) 📖 Roderic Alley, "The Bougainville Conflict" (R. Alley, <i>The Domestic Politics of International Relations</i> , Ashgate, 2000, pp. 85-115)
Week 7 February 28	Language Rights <u>Case study:</u> language rights in Ontario ⇒ GP1 COMMENTS	David Crystal, <i>Language Death</i> (all) 📖 Don Cartwright, "The Expansion of French Language Rights in Ontario, 1968 - 1993" (<i>Canadian Geographer</i> 40 (3):238-57, 1996)

Week 8 March 7	Midterm	
Week 9 March 14	Civil and Political Rights <u>Case study:</u> Partition of India ⇒ GP 2 COMMENTS	K. Singh, <i>Train to Pakistan</i> David Gilmartin, "Partition, Pakistan, and South Asian History" (<i>Journal of Asian Studies</i> 57 (4):1068-95, 1998)
Week 10 March 21	[spring break]	
Week 11 March 28	Rights of Women <u>Case study:</u> female circumcision ⇒ GP 1 COMMENTS	25 HR Documents, # 9 (Convention on Women) S. Okin et al., <i>Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?</i> (9-114; 117-131 optional) Richard Shweder, "What About 'Female Genital Mutilation'?" (<i>Daedalus</i> 129 (4):209-32, 2000) E. Gruenbaum, <i>Female Circumcision Controversy</i> (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2001, ch. 7)
Week 12 April 4	Rights to Health <u>Case studies:</u> bioprospecting; patent protections for anti-HIV drugs ⇒ GP 2 COMMENTS	Katarina Tomasevski, "Health Rights" (Asbjorn Eide et al. eds., <i>Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</i> , Martinus Nijhoff, 1995, pp. 125-42) V. Shiva and R. Holla-Bahr, "Piracy by Patent: the Case of the Neem Tree" (Jerry Mander and Edward Goldsmith, eds., <i>The Case Against the Global Economy</i> , Sierra Club Books, 1996, pp. 146-59) Katy Moran, "Returning Benefits from Ethnobotanical Drug Discovery to Native Communities" (Francesca Grifo and Joshua Rosenthal, eds., <i>Biodiversity and Human Health</i> , Island Press, 1997, pp. 243-63) Trebilock and Howse, "Trade-Related Intellectual Property" (Routledge, 2nd edition, 1999, pp. 307-12, 320-21) WTO/Doha Ministerial, "Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health" (Nov. 14, 2001, URL: http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min01_e/mindecl_trips_e.htm) anon., "U.S. Drug Imperialism" (<i>Multinational Monitor</i> , June 1998, p.5) anon., "Trading Public Health for Private Wealth" (<i>The Lancet</i> 356 (9246): 1941, Dec. 9, 2000) Sanjay Kumar, "India: Recipe for GATTastrophe?" (<i>The Lancet</i> 341:42-3, Jan. 2, 1993)
Week 13 April 11	Rights to Development <u>Case study:</u> Argentina's economic "reforms" ⇒ GP 1 COMMENTS	UN "Declaration on the Right to Development" (E. Lawson, ed., <i>Encyclopedia of Human Rights</i> , 1991, pp. 384-86) Biplab Dasgupta, <i>Structural Adjustment, Global Trade, and the New Political Economy of Development</i> (Vistaar Publications [New Delhi], 1998, pp. 66-136 [ch. 3]) M. Pastor and C. Wise, "From Poster Child to Basket Case" (<i>Foreign Affairs</i> 80 (6):60-72, Nov./Dec. 2001) V. Lloyd and R. Weissman, "Against the Workers" (<i>Multinational Monitor</i> , Sept. 2001, pp. 7-11)

Week 14 April 18	Rights to Culture <u>Case study:</u> cultural pluralism in trade ⇒ GP 2 COMMENTS	 UNESCO, "Draft Declaration on Cultural Diversity" (31 C/44 Rev.2, October 23, 2001)  anon., "Culture Wars." (<i>Economist</i> 348 (8085):97-99, Sept. 12, 1998)  Arjun Appadurai, "Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Economy" (<i>Public Culture</i> 2 (2):1-24, 1990)  Vincent Cable, "The New Trade Agenda: Universal Rules amid Cultural Diversity" (<i>International Affairs</i> [London] 72 (2):227-46, 1996)  David Rothkopf, "In Praise of Cultural Imperialism" (<i>Foreign Policy</i> 107: 38-52, summer 1997)
Week 15 April 25	Conclusions and Prospects	(instructor gone 4/25: schedule make-up session)
May 9	Final Exam	

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