

Eastern Illinois University
New Course Proposal
EIU 4199G, The Politics of Human Rights, Honors

1. Catalog Description
 - a. EIU 4199G
 - b. The Politics of Human Rights, Honors
 - c. (4-0-4)
 - d. On demand
 - e. Pol Human Rights
 - f. A discussion and analysis of selected human rights problems, with emphasis on the ways in which government action affects the protection and promotion of these rights. Majors in Political Science are excluded.
 - g. Completion of at least 75 hours
 - h. Writing intensive

2. Student Learning Objectives
Students will
 - a. Demonstrate knowledge of how governments have attempted to handle human rights abuses, through both laws and international treaties (critical thinking, literacy, citizenship)
 - b. Demonstrate knowledge of how non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have attempted to combat human rights violations (critical thinking, literacy, citizenship)
 - c. Demonstrate knowledge of major human rights abuses in the U.S. and in the world (critical thinking, literacy, citizenship)
 - d. Read and discuss a variety of texts, journal articles, primary documents, and other materials concerning human rights (literacy, critical thinking)
 - e. Write and present writing assignments and a research paper analyzing the politics of human rights (literacy, critical thinking)
 - f. Understand their role, as both U.S. and as global citizens, in fighting against human rights violations (citizenship, critical thinking)
 - g. Understand how the human rights problems influence their own lives (citizenship, critical thinking)

3. Course Outline (Course will meet for 200 minutes per week, for 15 weeks)
Week 1: Introduction
 - a. What are human rights?
 - b. How do government and politics influence human rights?Week 2: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on Human Rights
 - a. Classical Greek and Roman views
 - b. Social Contract Theory
 - c. Liberalism
 - d. Understanding the rights of individuals against government
 - e. European vs. US perspectives on human rightsWeek 3: International Law and Human Rights
 - a. United Nations
 - b. Universal Bill of Rights

Week 4: Obtaining Justice in the World System

- a. European Court of Human Rights
- b. U.N. committees and enforcement
- c. How should the U.S. get involved?

Week 5: Genocide

- a. Holocaust (film: "Schindler's List")
- b. Cambodia (film: "The Killing Fields")
- c. Bosnia

Week 6: Human Rights and War

- a. War Crimes Tribunal
- b. Refugees
- c. Land mines
- d. International criminal courts

Week 7: Death Penalty

- a. U.S. policy (film: "Dead Man Walking")
- b. Comparing the U.S. to other countries

Week 8: Women's Rights

- a. Pay equity
- b. Education
- c. Female genital mutilation
- d. Reproductive rights
- e. Denial of civil rights

Week 9: Children's Rights

- a. Child labor
- b. Child slavery

Week 10: Political Freedom

- a. Freedom of press, speech, religion
- b. Academic freedom
- c. Voting rights
- d. Linguistic freedom

Week 11: Human Rights in China

- a. U.S. and free trade
- b. Tibet
- c. Religious persecution
- d. Violations of basic freedoms

Week 12: Assessment activities

Week 13: Human Rights Activists

- a. Amnesty International
- b. Human Rights Watch
- c. OSCE
- d. Council of Europe

Weeks 14 & 15

- a. Course conclusions and presentations

4. Evaluation of Student Learning
 - a. Writing skills will be evaluated through several writing assignments. Students will write essays or response papers based on course materials and class discussion. In addition, they will maintain a journal analyzing current human rights violations. Students will make presentations from their journals on a weekly basis. They will also write and present a research paper analyzing human rights violations in a particular country or region. The writing assignments will require students to use primary literature. Speaking skills will be evaluated through class discussions and paper presentations.
 - b. Course grades will be based on the following
 1. Research paper, with revisions 40%
 2. Written assignments 40%
 3. Class participation and presentations 20%
5. Rationale
 - a. Senior Seminar
 - b. Prerequisite: 75 hours completed
 - c. This is an honors version of the senior seminar, EIU 4109G.
 - d. This course will not be required in any majors or programs, other than general education.
6. Implementation
 - a. Initial instructors: Dr. Carwell and Dr. Hendrickson
 - b. Textbook and supplementary materials:
 1. Brown, Seyom. 2000. Human Rights in World Politics. New York: Longman.
 2. Ishay, Micheline. 1997. The Human Rights Reader: Major Political Essays, Speeches, and Documents From the Bible to the Present. New York: Routledge
 3. Williams, Mary, ed. 1998. Human Rights: Opposing Viewpoints. San Diego, CA: Greenhaven.
 4. *Human Rights Quarterly*. On-line journal.
 - c. Additional costs: none
 - d. Term first offered: Spring 2003
7. Community College Transfer: Not applicable
8. Date approved by the Department of Political Science: 2/20/02
9. Date approved by the College of Sciences Curriculum Committee: 4/05/02
10. Date approved by the Honors Council: 8/30/02
11. Date approved by CAA: 9/26/02

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