SOC 382: INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

“Then I returned and considered all the oppression that is done under the sun:
And look! The tears of the oppressed, but they have no comforter — on the side of their oppressors there is power, but they have no comforter.” Ecclesiastes 4:1

SPRING ARBOR UNIVERSITY
SPRING 2010

Professor: Jeremy Norwood
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E-mail: jnorwood@arbor.edu
Office Hours: 11:00-12:00, Tuesdays and Thursdays, or by appointment
Class Meets: 9:20-10:45, Tuesdays and Thursdays, POL304

COURSE DESCRIPTION

International Human Rights is the study of which rights, freedoms, and protections are essential to humanity on a global scale. This course will discuss and explore the holistic Biblical concept of justice and how it is or is not present in countries around the world. Problems dealing with the unequal distribution of wealth, power, and natural resources will be discussed in the context of international organizations, nations, and people groups. International organizations, multilateral and bilateral treaties, and country reports/histories will be studied. Some of the conflicts which will be analyzed include the Congo, Nazi Germany, Cambodia, Bosnia, Kosovo, Rwanda, and the Sudan, among others. Human rights issues which will be discussed include sex trafficking, forced prostitution, bonded slavery, domestic/sexual abuse, the HIV/AIDS crisis, genocide, ethnic cleansing, systematic rape, as well as other problems that exist. Students will be encouraged to expand their perspective outside of their immediate surroundings and to embrace a more global perspective. This class will focus not on profit, conquest, or expansion, but the sanctity of the human life.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Expose students to philosophical and ethical theories in the study of human rights.
2. Develop the students’ understanding of key concepts and issues in human rights.
3. Compare and contrast various theories and paradigms in the study of human rights.
4. Analyze and evaluate concepts, issues, and theories in human rights through extensive exposure to historic and contemporary cases of human rights violations.

REQUIRED TEXTS


Julie Flint & Alex DeWaal, *Darfur: A New History of a Long War*.

**COURSE COMPONENTS**

**Participation (10%)**

**Philosophy of Human Rights (10%)**

**Midterm Paper (20%)**

**Presentations (20%)**

**Final Paper/Presentation (40%)**

**GRADING SCALE:**

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ASSIGNMENTS

Week #1:

Thursday (28): Testimony, Class Vision, Syllabus, Main Themes

Week #2: (Component #1: The Historical Foundation of Human Rights)

Tuesday (2): Presentations (Ishay)
Thursday (4): Presentations (Ishay)

Week #3: (Component #1: The Historical Foundation of Human Rights)

Tuesday (9): Presentations (Ishay)
Thursday (11): Presentations (Ishay)

Week #4: (Component #2: Colonization of Africa)

Tuesday (16): Rodney, How Europe Underdeveloped Africa; Three-Page Philosophy of Human Rights Due
Thursday (18): Rodney, How Europe Underdeveloped Africa

Week #5: (Component #3: Nazi Germany)

Tuesday (23): Nazi Germany (Schindler's List); Read Power, A Problem from Hell, Ch. 1-3
Thursday (25): Nazi Germany (Schindler's List); Read Power, A Problem from Hell, Ch. 4-5

Week #6: (Component #4: Cold War Politics)

Tuesday (2): Cold War Politics (Congo, Chile, Vietnam, Ghana, Latin America)
Thursday (4): Cambodia & the Khmer Rouge; Read Power, A Problem from Hell, Ch. 6

Week #7: (Component #5: Cambodia & the Khmer Rouge)

Tuesday (9): Cambodia & the Khmer Rouge: “The Killing Fields,” Bibliography Due
Thursday (11): Cambodia & the Khmer Rouge: “The Killing Fields”

Week #8:  SPRING BREAK

Week #9: (Component #6: Bosnia, Srebrenica, and Kosovo)

Tuesday (23): Bosnia, Read Power, A Problem from Hell, Ch. 9, 11
Thursday (25): Bosnia, Kosovo

**Week #10: (Component #7: Rwanda)**

Tuesday (30): Rwanda (“Sometimes in April”)

Thursday (1): Rwanda (“Sometimes in April”)

**FIRST DRAFTS DUE FRIDAY, APRIL 2ND BY 5 P.M. (OFFICE)**

**Week #11: (Component #7: Rwanda)**

Tuesday (6): Read Power, *A Problem from Hell*, Ch. 10

Thursday (8): Rwanda

**Week #12: (Component #8: Modern-Day Slavery)**

Tuesday (13): Read Haugen, *Terrify No More*, pp. 1-150

Thursday (15): Finish Haugen, *Terrify No More*, pp. 150-end

**Week #13: (Component #8: Modern-Day Slavery)**

Tuesday (20): Batstone Presentations

Thursday (22): Batstone Presentations

**Week #14: (Component #9: Darfur)**

Tuesday (27): Read Flint & De Waal, *Darfur: A New History of a Long War*

Thursday (29): Read Flint & De Waal, *Darfur: A New History of a Long War*

**Week #15: (Component #10: Conclusion)**

Tuesday (4): *Where Do We Go From Here?*

Thursday (6): Final Presentations

**Week #16:**

Tuesday (11): Final Presentations
POLICIES

1. All assignments must be completed on time. Assignments not turned in on time will not be accepted.

2. Academic integrity is expected in all work. Plagiarism, failure to cite sources, and other forms of cheating will result in a zero grade for the assignment in question. A second instance will result in a failing grade for the course.

3. Students must use the APA Style Manual in writing their papers unless their major requires a different format.

4. Cell phones, pagers, iTunes, and other electronic equipment are not allowed in the classroom. Students will be dismissed from the classroom if their cell phone rings at any point in the class period.

5. Students are allowed absences only in times of emergencies. Class attendance, therefore, is mandatory. Absences will count against the student’s in-class participation grade.

6. The instructor reserves the right to change or revise the syllabus at any time during the semester.