

Gov 211-HRA 211
Wednesday 4:00-4:50
Room 106, DePerno
e-mail: torlin@utica.edu

Prof. Theodore S. Orlin
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Tel: 792-3267

INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS

Course description: Introduction to contemporary human rights problems and the global response to these issues.

Aim:

Government/ Human Rights 211, Introduction to Human Rights, introduces the lower classman to the theory and foundations of human rights theory and law. It examines contemporary issues where human rights had been, or are being violated, in various regions of the world. The perspective will be global in nature and will include examples from every hemisphere and a variety of different kinds of governments.

The topical areas will vary each semester, depending on the relevant issues of interest. All topics will be focused and assessed on the basic international documents that govern human rights practice, e.g. the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Convention on the Rights of the Child, etc. Also introduced will be the mechanisms that protect human rights found in the United Nations system, the Council of Europe, the Organization of American States, domestic legal systems, etc.

Readings:

New York Times

Selected Human Rights Instruments and Bibliography, Third Edition by Frank Newman, David Weissbrodt, et. al, Anderson Law School Publications, 1996
Handouts from Human Rights publications.

Course Requirements and Grading:

3 essays 25% each	75%
Class Participation 25%	25%

Course Schedule (Subject to Change):

(Topics will not necessarily be in this order and will be determined by current events, availability of guest speakers, etc.)

Session	Date	Topic	Assignments in Italics
1.	August 28	Introduction Nature of the State and the Individual	<i>The Human Rights Theory and its Internationalization</i>
2.	September 4	Historical Examples of Human Rights Violations Armenia, Holocaust, Native Americans Rights, etc. <i>Read: Excerpts from official historical and official documents/ Handouts</i> <i>UN Charter –Preamble, Articles 1, 2,55,56,13,71</i>	
3.	September 11	Special Discussion- Terrorism, human rights, self determination, self defense, etc. <i>Read: UN Charter Chapter VII and VIII, ICCPR Art. 1</i> <i>Selection of New York Times Articles- TBA</i>	
4.	September 18	International Responses to Human Rights violations <i>Read: Universal Declaration of Human Rights</i> <u><i>Civil and Political Rights and Examples</i></u>	
5.	September 25	Torture- <i>Read: UDHR Article 5, ICCPR Article 7, Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment, Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture</i> <i>Case examples: MRP v. Swit. , A.S. v. Sweden, IHHR, Vol.8, No.4, pp.967-981</i>	
6.	October 2	Slavery – <i>Read: UDHR Article 4, ICCPR Article 8, Slavery Conventions (Handouts)</i> <i>Case example: US News and World Report, TBA</i>	

7. **October 9 Life-**
 *Read: UDHR Article 3, ICCPR Article 6, Second Optional
Protocol ICCPR, Protocol No. 6 European Convention*
 *Orlin- (On Reserve)- The Burdens of the Death Penalty, The
Right to Life / The Right to Die*
 HRC Case- TBA

ESSAY 1- (5-8pp.) (The Historical and Theoretical Foundations of Human Rights and its application- take an example from the NYT and discuss how the issue(s) may violate human rights in both law and theory.)

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Examples

8. **October 16 Right to Work –**
 Read: UDHR Article 23, ICESCR Articles 6, 7, 8
 Case Example- Levi case and others
9. **October 23 Right To Health and Well Being (Cultural Rights)**

 *Read: UDHR Article 25, ICESCR Articles 12, 15, 2, Convention
on the Rights of the Child –pertinent articles,*
 *Case Example: Female Genital Mutilation {FMG}, Weissbrodt,
pp.896, TBA*
10. **October 30 Right to Water? – Exercise**
 Read: Leasing The Rain(New Yorker), NYT series August 25-30

ESSAY 2 –(A Review of a Human Rights Watch Monograph or Amnesty Report, NGO report or a IGO Report (IHRR)- you are to read either a IGO report or NGO monograph- summarize the material and discuss the significance of the issue and the prospects for the protection of human rights)

International Machinery for Human Rights Protection

11. **November 6 UN Body- CEDAW**
*Read: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of
Discrimination Against Women, Optional Protocol (1999),
IHHR, Vol.7, No.1 (2000)*
Example: TBA
- 12 **November 13 Regional Body- Cof E, OAS, etc.**
*Read: European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights
and Freedoms*
Case Example: TBA
- 13 **November 20 ICC**
*Read: Rome Statute of the International Court
Handouts*
- November 27-Dec. 1 Thanksgiving**
14. **Dec. 4 FINAL ESSAY – DUE-**

Exam Date open discussion

