SELF-DETERMINATION OF PEOPLES

Dr. Cindy Holder
Email: clholder@uvic.ca

Course Description
In this course students will read and discuss work by contemporary authors that bears on the historical development, current content, and normative justification of collective rights to self-determination, more commonly known as the self-determination of peoples. The course is organized around the right to self-determination in international law, with a primary emphasis on the conceptual underpinnings of the right and its status and relationship to other norms, both in international law and international ethics. Topics covered will include: the relationship between self-determination and land; the relationship between self-determination and state sovereignty; and the extent to which the right constrains and establishes obligations within states as well as between them.

Evaluation
5 Short Comments \(a\) (1-page each @ 1%) 5%
   Due by 10 am on Thursday of the week the readings are covered

5-7 page paper \(b\) 30%
   Due the middle of February

Research Outline \(c\) (3-5 pages) 10%
   Due three weeks before the end of class

Group Presentation \(d\) 15%
   Last two weeks of class

Final Paper \(e\) (10-15 pages) 40%
   Due April 15

Late assignments will be penalized in the amount of 5% per day they are late to a maximum of 30%.

Texts
- Online coursepack

The online coursepack will be available through CourseSpaces.
a About the Short Comments: Short comments should be 1 page long and should discuss an issue, argument or topic from the readings of the week in which they are handed in. Short comments are due by 10 am on Thursday of the week in which the readings are assigned.

b About the 5-7 page paper: The topic for this paper is open-ended but you must base the paper around one of the readings from the first half of the course. Due date: mid-February

c About the Research Outline: Research outlines should briefly outline the student’s proposed paper topic, including a tentative bibliography. Research Outlines for topics that have not been discussed with me at least 2 weeks prior to the due date will not be accepted. Due date: 3 weeks before the end of term

d About the Group Presentations: The last two weeks will feature group presentations. The groups will be randomly selected by me. Each group will present a case study that illustrates questions or issues related to self-determination. Groups must advise me of the case study they have chosen by mid-February. The group presentation should last roughly 25 minutes, followed by Q&A. In preparing for the presentation groups should compile an annotated bibliography of the sources they have used. This bibliography is to be submitted on the day of the group’s presentation.

e About the Final Paper: The topic for the final paper is to be chosen by you. You may write on the case study of their group presentation but you do not have to do so. Whatever the topic chosen, you are strongly encouraged to speak to me about it ahead of time. Due date: April 15

Schedule
TBD

Grading Scale

N Grades
Students who have completed the two short writing assignments and 10-12 page will be considered to have completed the course. Failure to complete one or more of these elements will result in a grade of “N” regardless of the cumulative percentage on other elements of the course. N is a failing grade and factors into GPA as a value of 0.

CourseSpaces
A CourseSpaces page has been set up for this course. You may access it by signing in with your netlink id. This page will be used to post announcements, to give you online access to lecture notes, handouts and assignment sheets and to collect short answer assignments.
Please note that all assignments for this course and all materials posted to CourseSpaces are the intellectual property of myself and the University of Victoria. Do not circulate this material or post it to note-sharing sites without my permission. Posting course materials to note-sharing sites or otherwise circulating course materials without the permission of your instructor violates the Policy on Academic Integrity (http://web.uvic.ca/calendar/FACS/UnIn/UARe/PoAcI.html). Any evidence you are circulating materials without permission will be referred to the Chair of the Philosophy Department for investigation.

Academic Integrity
Any and all sources used in preparing work that is submitted for evaluation must be acknowledged. This includes websites, and other students’ work. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated. Such conduct is contrary to the University’s academic regulations, and shows a profound lack of respect for myself, for fellow students and for the university as an institution of higher learning. It is each student’s responsibility to know the University’s regulations in this regard. The University Library also has information designed to assist students in understanding and adhering to the University’s standards (http://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/plagiarism/). The University’s expectations, procedures and the penalties for academic dishonesty are set out in the Policy on Academic Integrity, which you can find in the Undergraduate Calendar (http://web.uvic.ca/calendar/FACS/UnIn/UARe/PoAcI.html).