PHIL 535 A01 (CRN 22426)

International Human Rights

Dr. Cindy Holder        Office Hours:   Mon 3:00-4:00 pm
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Course Description: This course introduces key concepts and theories in international human rights. The readings focus on ethical and theoretical issues raised by the international human rights law and practices. The assignments and course material are designed to give you a basic understanding of international human rights concepts, legal regimes and institutions, and to enable you to apply the concepts and theoretical frameworks studied to contemporary events and cases.

This course is taught in a seminar format. You are expected to do the readings in advance and to come to class ready to ask questions and contribute to discussion.

Evaluation:
1 page response to readings (5@2% each)
   Due by 10 am on Thurs of the week in which the readings are assigned
10-12 page paper
   Must be based around one of the readings from the first half of the course
Group presentation of a case study
   Scheduled during the last two weeks. Case study chosen by the group.
18-20 page research paper
   Topic open-ended but must relate to international human rights. May be based on the case study covered in group presentation but does not have to be. May draw on material from 10-12 page paper but does not have to.

Late assignments will be penalized in the amount of 5% per 24 hours they are late, to a maximum of 30%.

aAbout the 1-page responses: Responses should not be more than 1 page double-spaced and should discuss an issue, argument or topic from the readings of the week in which they are handed in. Responses are due by 10 am of the Thursday of the week in which the readings are assigned.

bAbout the 10-12 page paper: The topic of this term paper must be drawn from at least one of the readings covered in the first five weeks of class (i.e., readings from the week of Feb 7 or earlier).

cAbout the Group Presentations: The last two weeks will feature group presentations. The groups will be 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 March 10. 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.

dAbout the 15-20 page paper: The topic for the final paper is to be chosen by you. You may write on the case study of your group presentation but you do not have to do so. You may use your 10-12 page paper as the basis 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.
Grading Scale:

N Grades
Students who have completed the 7-9 page paper and the final paper 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.

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 me, for fellow students and for the university as an institution of higher learning.

You are expected to read the University’s Policy on Academic Integrity. You can find it in the Undergraduate Calendar (https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/#/policy/Sk_0xsM_V?bc=true&bcCurrent=08%20-%20Policy%20on%20Academic%20Integrity&bcGroup=Undergraduate%20Academic%20Regulations&bcItemType=policies). It is your responsibility to know and follow the University’s regulations regarding academic integrity. Penalties for academic integrity violations are harsh and are applied as written.

For additional information about the University’s expectations with respect to academic integrity and resources to help you meet those expectations, visit the University’s Academic Integrity page (https://www.uvic.ca/students/academics/academic-integrity/#ipn-resources).

Academic Supports
The University has a number of academic support services that may help you in this course, such as the Centre for Academic Communication (https://www.uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/), the Library’s Research Anywhere site (https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/ResearchAnywhere/) and the Library’s “Ask Us” service (https://www.uvic.ca/library/research/ask/index.php). Information about academic supports can be found through the University’s Learn Anywhere site (https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/LearnAnywhere/academic-supports/).

Academic Accommodations
The University of Victoria is committed to creating a learning experience that is as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning in this course, please feel welcome to discuss your concerns with me. If you believe you will require academic accommodations to address barriers to your education in this course and you are not already registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning, please do so (https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/onlineservices/register/index.php). The Centre for Accessible Learning is the office designated to make arrangements for accommodations. You can find information about academic accommodations through the Centre for Accessible Learning’s website (https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/programs/academic/index.php).

Brightspace
A Brightspace 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 readings, supplementary resources and assignment sheets
- collect assignments
- set up groups for the group assignment
- give you access to resources for your group project
Please note that all assignments for this course and all materials posted to Brightspace 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. Any evidence you are circulating materials without permission will be referred to the Chair of the Philosophy Department for investigation.

Texts
All readings are posted to Brightspace in the week in which they are assigned and in an online Coursepack

Schedule:
This is the anticipated schedule of readings for the semester. Dates and reading assignments may change over the course of the term. Changes will always be announced in class ahead of time.

Jan 10, 13

Jan 17, 20

Jan 24, 27

Jan 31, Feb 3

Feb 7, 10


7-9 page paper due Feb 11

Feb 14, 17


Feb 21-Feb 25 Reading Break

Feb 28, Mar 3


Mar 7, 10

Catherine Nolin and Jacqui Stephens, "We Have to Protect the Investors: ‘Development’ & the Canadian Mining Companies in Guatemala", Journal of Rural and Community Development 5:3

Johanna Higgs, Millitarized Youth: The Children of the FARC Palgrave Macmillan: Cham, 2020, pp. 11-44 (chapter 2).


Group Presentations

15-20 page paper due April 15