Current Issues in Human Rights  
GRHR 503  
Semester 2, 2010  
Course Guide.  
MA (Human Rights)

Class times:  Tuesday 9-12

Course Description
Outlook on current issues related to human rights situations in the global and regional contexts, such as globalization, democratization and good governance, promotion of global free trade, development, poverty eradication, environmental conservation, forced migration, different forms of armed conflicts, etc. Impacts of these issues on violations or protection of human rights.

General Aims.
This course is aimed at covering the diversity of issues in human rights today. The topics covered are selected in consultation with the students and are intended to allow an exploration of current concerns to human rights. The course intends to explore and discuss what is currently happening in selected areas of human rights, with a focus on human rights in the field, human rights programming, and the activities of organizations in promoting and protecting human rights.

Assessment:

Case Study presentation and paper 50%
Students will write a short paper of about 1,500-2,000 words describing a case study of activities responding to a human rights current issue. The case study must be of some project undertaken in response to human rights concerns, and detail what he project did, and also consider its effectiveness. In your presentation detail the following aspects:

• Where was the project implemented, and briefly describe the project in action
• What are the key objectives of the project?
• Who are the beneficiaries of the project?
• What are the intended outcomes of the project?
• What is your critical assessment of the project. Consider aspects such as participation, cost, outputs, community needs, economic, social and cultural development, impacts (both positive and negative), gender sensitivity, capacity building, and inclusion.

1. Students should submit the slides from their presentation, which will be assessed along with the information given in the presentation. (30%)
2. Students should also write up the preservation into a paper of about 8 pages or 1,500 words which will be assessed for the research (20%)

Term Paper 50%
The student will write a term paper on a separate topic to the case study. The paper will be about 12-15 or about pages 3,000 words. Students should first discuss the term paper topic with the lecturer.

Reading Text: Students will be provided with a Course Reading Guide.
Summary Schedule

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<td>Mike H</td>
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<td>16 Nov.</td>
<td>Globalization: Development</td>
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<td>3.1</td>
<td>23 Nov.</td>
<td>Human Rights and Criminal Justice</td>
<td>Manfred Nowak</td>
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<td>3.2</td>
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<td>Peace and Conflict: IHL in practice</td>
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<td>Peace and Conflict: Humanitarianism</td>
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<td>Peace and Conflict: Trans. Justice</td>
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<td>Migration 1 Refugees</td>
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<td>Migration 4: Stateless, IDPs, Gaps in protection</td>
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<td>Women: Reproductive Health</td>
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<td>Women: Current Issues at the UN</td>
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*Friday class

COURSE READINGS AND TOPICS

1. Globalization: Economic Issues (WB, IMF, SAPs)


**Seminar Topics:** Structure of the global economy: finance, trade, and FDI
Functions of the key International Financial Institutions (IFIs)
Globalization and the private sector: trans national corporations
International movements against economic globalisation
Alternatives to economic globalization

**Seminar Questions:** In what ways can economic globalization impact human rights?
Are there connections between the ‘anti-globalization’ or ‘another globalization’ movement and human rights?

2. Globalization: Development


Seminar Topics: Development and human rights
Poverty as human rights violation
Rights-based approach to development
Millennium Development Goals and human rights

Seminar Questions: How do the MDGs relate to human rights?
What are the main features of the Rights Based Approach?

3.1 Peace and Conflict: IHL in practice. Guest Lecture


Seminar Topics: The class will explore the investigation of the Gaza flotilla study, and in particular how IHL is applied to this situation. The class will both cover how the Human Rights Committee undertakes this kind of research, as well as the findings from the report.

3.2 Human Right in the Criminal Justice System. Guest Lecture

Reading: None

Seminar Topics: The class will be a guest lecture by Manfred Novak on the status of human rights in the criminal justice system, exploring his role as a special rapportuer for torture, as well as concerns in the criminal justice system.

4. Development and RBA


Seminar Topics: Putting RBA into context of development
The conceptual issues of Rights Based Development
Rights based programming, the main elements

Seminar Questions: What is the value-added of RBA?
How can RBA be done?

5. Peace and Conflict: Humanitarianism

Seminar Topics: Defining humanitarianism and describing situations where humanitarianisms is needed
Overview the historical development, from the early years of the ICRC to the end of the cold war, of humanitarian activities.
Ethical and moral arguments given for humanitarian aid.
The crisis in humanitarianism, in particular the issues of: impartiality, neutrality, independence, and the principle of ‘do no harm.’ This will be put in the context of the 1990s mission when these issues were first raised

Seminar Questions: How has humanitarianism changed and developed post World War II?
What are the ethical concerns now in humanitarian aid?
How have organizations adapted to prolonged conflict, aims to do no harm, and the increased privatization o humanitarianism?

6. Peace and Conflict: Transitional Justice

Seminar Topics: Relationship between peace and human rights
Transitional justice and human rights

Seminar Questions: What does transitional justice mean?
How have various transitional justice mechanisms (UN organized courts, hybrids, truth and reconciliation councils) dealt with issues of human rights violations?

7. Migration 1: Refugees

Seminar Topics: Current trends in global migration
Definition and rights of refugee & IDP
Trends in forced migration
Development-induced displacement

**Seminar Questions:** Currently, where do most refugees come from and where do they go to? What do organizations like the UNHCR see as the main concerns for refugees nowadays?

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### 8. Migration 2: Migrant Workers

**Reading:** Nicola Piper. “Rights of Foreign Workers and the Politics of Migration in South-East and East Asia.” *International Migration* Vol. 42 (5) 2004: 71-97

**Seminar Topics:** Legal protection to migrant workers
Status of the CMW and reasons for lack of ratifications
Violations faced by migrant workers in the region

**Seminar Questions:** What are some important rights developed in the MWC, and what are rights that are carried over from the other treaties? What are some areas of most concern for the rights of migrant workers?

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### 9. Migration 3: Trafficking


**Seminar Topics:** Definitions of human trafficking and smuggling
Legal standards on human trafficking: Palermo Protocol and the TVPA
Current causes and trends in trafficking
Debates about commercial sex work/prostitution

**Seminar Questions:** How does the protection afforded by the TVPA compare to the Palermo protocol? What are the patterns of trafficking in Asia (or Europe)?
10. Migration: IDPs, Stateless, and gaps in protection
Reading:
Seminar Topics:
Seminar Questions:

11. Environment and Human Rights
Reading:
Seminar Topics:
Seminar Questions:

12. Women: Reproductive Rights
Reading:
Seminar Topics:
Seminar Questions:

13. Women: Violence Against Women
Reading:
Seminar Topics:
Seminar Questions:

14. Children: Rights to Education
Reading:
Seminar Topics:
Seminar Questions:
15. Children
Reading:
Seminar Topics:
Seminar Questions: