

# Human Rights Education: Rights, Responsibility, Obligations Fall 2009                      Gabriel Moran

## Course Purposes:

1. To trace the historical pattern of international ethics and human rights, especially during the second half of the twentieth century.
2. To understand the relation of rights to key issues including responsibility, peace, women, children, environment, religion
3. To examine contemporary examples involving the violation of human rights. The choice of examples will depend on the composition of the class.

## Course Outline:

Sept. 10: Introduction: International Ethics and Human Rights

Sept 17: International Ethical Traditions (Nardin, Sands)

Sept. 24: Human Rights: Historical Background (Hoffman, Rorty)

Oct. 1: UN: Declaration and Covenants ( UN Documents)

Oct. 8: Basic Rights (Shue, Moran)

Oct. 15: Challenge to Rights (Vincent, Sen)

Oct. 22: Responsibility (Moran; Shue)

Oct. 29: Power, Force, Aggression, Violence (Dewey, Moran)

Nov. 5: War and Peace (Bok; Moran; Bourne)

Oct. 12: Environment (Goodin; White)

Nov. 19: Women and Rights (Tickner; Bunch; Whitworth; UN Convention)

Dec. 3: Children and Rights (Moran; Lewis; Beah; UN Convention)

Dec. 10: Religions: Obstacle or Help? (Orentlicher; Hsu; Shakir)

Dec. 15 (Tuesday): Truth commissions (Moran; Graybill, Truth Commission Library)

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### Reading:

Readings and excerpts provided in photocopy or online at [www.nyu.edu/classes/gmoran](http://www.nyu.edu/classes/gmoran)

### Writing:

1. Each class will begin by your responding in writing to a question about the reading. I will comment on what you write (without a grade) and return it the following class. Keep these 14 written exercises on file. The final exam will be taken largely from them.

### 2. Project:

a. An individually written paper on one international conflict. A list of possible cases is provided below

b. Content: The paper should cover: some history of the specific problem; the present situation; political and ethical actions that have been taken in response to the problem.

c. Length: It can be any length; about 10-12 pages would seem needed

d. First draft due: Oct. 29

It will be returned with comments and suggestions: Nov. 5

Final Draft due: Dec. 10

We will have some discussion of them on Dec. 15

Final Examination

## Course Evaluation:

Approximately one-third for oral contributions  
one-third for written paper  
one-third for final examination

I am available for discussion of the paper or other matters. Before class is usually a good time for me. Other times can be arranged.

E-mail: gm3@nyu.edu

For the Written Paper, choose one of the following situations; or another of your choosing

- Haiti, 1994
- Sierra Leone, 1995
- East Timor, 1999
- Kosovo, 1999
- El Salvador, 1982
- Somalia, 1992
- Iraq, 1990
- Kashmir, 2001
- Israel, 2001
- Venezuela, 2002
- Pakistan 2008
- North Korea, 2009
- Iran 2009
- Sudan, 2009