

International Ethics

Rights, Responsibility, Obligations

Spring 2014 Gabriel Moran

Course Purposes:

1. To trace the evolution of international ethics, especially during the second half of the twentieth century.
2. To understand responsibility as the link between rights and obligations
3. To consider the language of human rights as the currency of international ethics
4. To relate human rights to gender and age, and to issues of peace, environment, religion, and culture
5. To examine recent and contemporary examples of international ethical conflicts, especially the violation of human rights.

Course Outline

1. Jan. 29: Introduction to the Course
2. Feb. 5: International Ethics (Welsh, Moran, HR 7-27)
3. Feb. 12: Responsibility, Duties, Obligations (Moran, Scheffler)
4. Feb 19: International Responsibility (Shue, Smith)
5. Feb. 26: Basic Rights (Shue, Rorty)
6. Mar. 5: History of Rights (Nardin, HR 61-94)
7. Mar. 12: UN, Current Issues (HR Watch 4-19, HR 95-129)
8. Mar. 26: Peace and War (Bok, Moran)

9. Apr. 2: Gender and Human Rights (Tichner, Bunch, Whitworth)
10. Apr. 9: Rights of Children, the Aged, Dying (Moran; Lewis; Beah; UN)
11. Apr. 16: Religions: Obstacle or Help? (HR 197-231; Shakir)
12. Apr. 23: The Environment in Tension with Human Rights (Williams; White)
13. Apr. 30: The Culture and Cultures of the Humans (Sen; Moran)
14. May 7: Truth Commissions Discussion of Papers

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading:

All readings for the course are provided 1) in photocopy 2) in the provided book *Uniquely Human: The Basis of Human Rights* (HR) 3) in "NYU Classes" where all of the course material is in "Resources." The weekly readings are listed in "Assignments."

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 and similar themes

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; your evaluation

c. Length: It can be any length; about 10-15 pages would seem needed

d. First draft: March 12

It will be returned with comments and suggestions: March 26

Final Draft: April 30

We will have some discussion of the papers on May 7

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 or after class are usually good times 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. Check with me if you have an alternative

___ El Salvador, 1982

___ Iraq, 1990

___ Somalia, 1992

___ Haiti, 1994

___ Rwanda, 1994

___ East Timor, 1999

___ Kosovo, 1999

___ Kashmir, 2001

___ Iran, 2013

___ Venezuela, 2002

___ Egypt, 2011

___ North Korea, 2009

___ Sudan, 2009