

LSJ/POL S 327: Women's Rights as Human Rights

Autumn 2016 • University of Washington

Instructor: Rachel Cichowski

Overview

This course is an elective course on women's human rights in the Law, Society and Justice Program and Political Science Department. The course is both international and global rather than having a United States focus. The purpose of the course is to expose students to the complex issues – social, political, economic and legal - that characterize women's human rights around the globe. Students will be asked to think critically about women's human rights while thinking comparatively about the varying domestic and international settings that can alter the meaning and practical application of these rights – from poverty to war. The course will focus on various substantive areas of women's human rights including reproductive rights and health rights at the domestic level. And we will also focus on women's human rights at the international level – in such areas as the development of rape as an international war crime and the global trends in sex trafficking. The course is cross listed with the Political Science Department and Law, Societies and Justice Program. For more information on these programs go to:

<http://depts.washington.edu/class/lj/> (Law, Societies and Justice)

<http://www.polisci.washington.edu/> (Political Science)

Role of Service-Learning in the Course

Students are invited, but not required, to participate in service learning. A critical point of this class is that the realization of rights often first relies on assurance of basic development needs (e.g. access to clean water and access to education). By working a few hours each week for an organization that works on local or global health, development, education and human rights issues, students can acquire direct practical experience with the issues discussed in class. Service learning students will be given an opportunity to share their experience and insights with the other students.

Assignments Related to Service-Learning

A portion of the student's final research paper project will be linked to the mission of their organization. The students will also have the opportunity to present this during a Class Poster Session.

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