

LSJ 320/POL S 368: International Human Rights

Autumn 2016 • University of Washington

Instructor: Jamie Mayerfeld

Overview

This course examines the emergence and development, since World War II, of an international movement dedicated to the promotion of human rights. We will study the goals of the movement and the global political context in which it operates. Special attention will be given to the legal institutions, national and international, which have influenced its evolution and character. Students taking the course will acquire an enhanced understanding of the role in human rights politics played by the United Nations, national governments, non-governmental organizations, customary international law, treaty law, regional courts, and international tribunals. Note: This is a core course for both the Law, Societies & Justice Major, and the Human Rights Minor. For more information about these two programs, see <http://depts.washington.edu/class/lcj> (Law, Societies, and Justice) <http://depts.washington.edu/hrights/hrminor.html> (Human Rights)

Role of Service-Learning in the Course

Students are invited, but not required, to participate in service learning. By working a few hours each week for an organization that works on human rights issues, students can acquire direct practical experience with the issues discussed in class. Service learning students are encouraged to share their experiences and reflections with the rest of the class.

Assignments Related to Service-Learning

Their web-based research exercise will be connected to the mission of their organization. Choosing the service learning option is one way to satisfy the experiential learning requirement of the Human Rights Minor.

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