

Global Learning Semesters

Course Syllabus

Course: IREL-625 Human Rights and Ethical Debates in IR

Department: International Relations

Host Institution: Intercollege, Nicosia, Cyprus



Course Summary		
Course Code	Course Title	Recommended Credit Hours
IREL-625	Human Rights and Ethical Debates in IR	3.7
Semester Offered	Contact Hours	Prerequisites
Fall/Spring	42	Graduate standing
Department	Level of Course	Language of Instruction
International Relations	Upper Division	English

Course Description

The Concept of Human Rights; The Universal Declaration Model; Equal Concern and Respect; Markets, States and 'the West'; Non-Western Conceptions of Human Rights; Cultural Relativism and Universal Human Rights; Human Rights and 'Asian Values'; International Human Rights Regimes; Human Rights and Foreign Policy; The Priority of National Action; Democracy, Development, and Human Rights; Group Rights and Human Rights; Nondiscrimination for all: The Case of Sexual Minorities; Genocide and Humanitarian Intervention.

Instructor

Tim Potier, Ph.D.

Course Aims and Objectives

The world has a habit of rotating full circle. The idealism of Woodrow Wilson's 14 Points; crushed by the demands of reconstruction, state construction and international political destruction; has slowly been re-moulded to its current apotheosis, albeit in a generally individual rather than collective guise. In this post-Cold War unipolar post-history world, the rights of man appear to matter again. Or is this sentence crushed by Wilsonian fallacy?

Example: the Afghan farmer harvested drugs during the early 90s to improve his own personal development, but the country was in chaos; this was replaced with an assertion of theological purity, but to realise this the regime had to be tyrannous; following the outrage of 9/11, the Taliban had to be removed and a more liberal figure installed, but the country risks chaos again - before I come back to that farmer.

Example: irrespective of the existence of Weapons of Mass Destruction, Saddam Hussein's murderous regime had to be removed also, but will the cost to Iraqi society, in both human and economic terms, prove to have made the Endeavour worthwhile?

International life will never cease to be confronted with painful, sometimes impossible choices. To protect and preserve the human rights of a greater number, a smaller number may have to be sacrificed. Should policy ever be prefaced with such acknowledgements? Once we have concluded whether there was a "Clash of Civilisations" and mankind found his own moment of mutual tolerance, new limits of acceptability between both the ruler and the ruled will have to be framed - until, that is, the next dislocation is observed.

Teaching Methods

Lectures and discussions.

Course Teaching Hours

42 hours. The course is delivered during the fall semester in 14-weeks (3 hours/week).

Evaluation and Grading

Final Exam:	50%
Assignment:	40%
Class Participation:	10%

Readings and Resources

Required Textbooks

Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice (Second Edition) by Jack Donnelly, Cornell University Press, 2003