MA OPTIONAL COURSE

GLOBALIZATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The proposed course is intended to offer an inter-disciplinary perspective on the subject of “globalization of human rights”. Apart from introducing the student to the philosophical foundation of rights, it will also familiarize the student with the normative architecture of human rights and the complex processes of implementation through formal international organizations, social movements, and an emerging global civil society. The course will also review contemporary debates relating to cultural relativism, war on terror, the relationship between human rights and development, and the transformative potential of the language of human rights in the era of globalization. Finally, it will address the theme of “dark side of virtue” by looking at debates relating to unilateral armed humanitarian intervention and the concept of responsibility to protect.

Collaborative Teaching: The Course is structured around Five Themes. Each of the themes will be taught by a faculty member specialized on the subject. The course in-charge will be Prof. B.S. Chimni.

Scheme of Evaluation: The grading will be awarded on the basis of a Mid-Semester and an End-Semester Examination.

Course Structure

Theme I - Philosophical Foundations of Human Rights

- Concept of Rights and Duties
- Individual and Society- Idea of Justice
- Cultures and Civilizations
- Globalization and Human Rights

Readings:


**Theme II - Human Rights Standards**

- Sources of Human Rights Law- Treaties, Declarations & Resolutions
- Global, Regional and National Standards
- Individual Rights
- Group Rights

**Readings**


**Theme III - Institutional Mechanisms**

- UN Framework
• Principal UN Mechanisms: Human Rights Council, OHCHR, UNHCR
• UN Treaty Bodies (e.g., Human Rights Committee)
• International Courts and Tribunals—e.g., ICJ, ICC, Ad hoc criminal tribunals
• Regional Arrangements
• National Courts and Human Rights Commissions
• Challenges and Limits of Enforcement

Readings:


(See also website links at the end).

Theme IV - Social Movements and Human Rights

• Salience of Social Movements
• Human Rights Movement in India
• Emerging “Global Civil Society”

Readings:


Theme V - Globalization and Human Rights: Debates

• Sovereignty
• Cultural Relativism
• Democracy and regime change
• “War on Terror”
• Humanitarian Intervention/Responsibility to Protect
• Development and Human Rights
• Corporate Social Responsibility
• Technology and Human rights
• Judicial Globalization

Readings:


UNGA (21 March 2011) A/HRC/17/31, Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other


**Major Web Links:**


National Human Rights Commission [http://nhrc.nic.in/](http://nhrc.nic.in/)