



PONTIFICIA
UNIVERSIDAD
CATÓLICA DE
VALPARAÍSO

International Relations Office

NAME OF THE COURSE:	Human Right in Latin America
HOURS:	60 contact hours
CREDITS:	4
COURSE CODE:	PIIE 450

Course description

This course will examine the evolution, approaches and debates regarding Human Rights in Latin America during the 20th and 21st centuries, paying particular attention to the Chilean case. Since the end of WWII, we have seen “human rights” evolve from a more abstract theoretical concept to an increasingly compelling and influential moral and legal instrument in confronting human suffering, injustice and collective memory. Yet, numerous challenges remain to the prevention and eradication of human rights violations globally. For instance, the very idea of “universal” human rights remain controversial, and debates over what issues can legitimately be considered under the umbrella of human rights persist. This course provides an introduction to the interdisciplinary study of human rights as a concept, as a set of laws and institutions, and as a set of political and cultural practices. We will examine the historical, political, legal, social and cultural aspects of the topic.

Thus, we will begin with a study of the philosophical foundations of human rights that seeks to answer questions such as “What are human rights?” and “How and why do we have these rights?”, as well as a revision of the concept through western history. We will then move to the practice of human rights and examine the political structures that enable us to address human rights violations around the globe. Finally, we will consider some of the most salient, and often controversial, contemporary human rights challenges we face today in Latin America and Chile.

General Objectives

1. Comprehend the philosophical origins of the modern idea of human rights.
2. Comprehend the historical evolution of the idea of human rights in Modern times and Early Latin America.
3. Comprehend the different approaches and debates that human rights imply in current times.
4. Analyze the historical process of human rights in Latin American and Chile during 20th and 21st centuries.
5. Analyze contemporary human rights challenges we face today in Latin America and Chile.

Contents

1. The modern idea of human rights.
2. Historic evolution of the modern idea of human rights.
3. Human rights in Latin America.
4. Guerrilla and social violence.
5. State repression.
6. Transition to democracy
7. Social Memory
8. Current social issues: migration, inequality, gender issues.
9. Contemporary challenges in Latin America.

Evaluation

Paper (50%):

- a) Stage 1: Paper outline (15%)
- b) Stage 2: Paper draft (30%)
- c) Stage 3: Final Paper (55%)

News presentation (20%)

Class activities (30%)

- a) *Even the Rain*
- b) *No*

Evaluation description (for more information of each evaluation, please see its corresponding instructions).

- Paper: this evaluation is divided into three stages; The first two must be done in class period.

- For the paper outline, the student must choose a case study of his/her interest concerning any HR violation in Latin America in current times (from 1980 onwards). For this task, the student needs to create a thesis or identify a problem of analysis; identify four possible readings and explain the use it will be given to them.
- For the rough draft, the student needs to write the first part of the paper (introduction, thesis and arguments), incorporating bibliography. Once this is done, the student must point the following steps of his/her research.
- For the final paper, finish what is pending from prior stages.

- News presentation: The student must present any news concerning current HR violations in Latin America. It will depend on the number of students enrolled in the class, the number of presentations during the semester. The presentations dates will be designated by lot.

- Class activities: The class will be organized in different groups. Each group must answer a set of questions concerning the movies watched, or the expositions from the museums, during class period. Once finished each group will present their answers. Just the 2 best activities will be considered for this item's grade.

Attendance: 80%

Course Policies

- Punctuality is mandatory.
- Late submissions will be penalized with -0.3 points every day.
- All assignments must be turned in via the professor's mail (estefa.urqueta@gmail.com)
- You may use your preferred citation style, provided it is applied consistently.

However, APA style is suggested. You can learn how to quote in:

<http://www.bibme.org/citation-guide/apa/>