



PONTIFICIA
UNIVERSIDAD
CATÓLICA DE
VALPARAÍSO

International Relations Office

NAME OF THE COURSE: Human rights in Latin America
HOURS: 45 hours
CREDITS: 3
COURSE CODE: PIIE 5003

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 remains 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 objective

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

Specific objective

The course has been planned in three units –organized both chronologically and thematically. Each unit will help us to move through space and time as we grapple with the human rights history in Latin America.

- I. Historic evolution of the modern idea of human rights.
- II. Human rights in Latin America during the 20th century.
- III. Globalization and human rights in Latin America.

Contents

- The modern idea of human rights.
- Historic evolution of the modern idea of human rights.
- Human rights in Latin America.
- Guerrilla and social violence.
- State repression.
- Contemporary challenges in Latin America.

Evaluation

Your final grade will be made up of the following components:

- Class workshops (30%)
- Oral presentation (30%)
- Final paper (40%)

Attendance: 90%

Bibliography

General readings

- An-Na'im, Ahmed (ed). Human Rights in Cross-cultural Perspectives: A Quest for Consensus, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 1995. Googlebooks.
- Cardenas, Sonia. Human Rights in Latin America: A Politics of Terror and Hope. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2010. Googlebooks.
- Cleary, Edward L. The Struggle for Human Rights in Latin America. Westport, CT: Praeger, 1997. . Googlebooks.
- Donelly, Jack, "The relative universality of Human Rights", Human Rights Quarterly, Volume 29, Number 2, May 2007. PDF

- Donnelly, Jack. *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice*, New York: Cornell University Press, 2013. Googlebooks.
- Dunne, Tim, and Nicholas J. Wheeler, eds. *Human Rights in Global Politics*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1999. . Googlebooks.
- Goodhart, Michael, ed. *Human Rights: Politics and Practice*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009. . Googlebooks.
- Hunt, Lynn. *Inventing Human Rights*, New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2007. PDF
- Ishay, Micheline R. *The History of Human Rights: From Ancient Times to the Globalization Era*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004. . Googlebooks.

Human Rights in Chile

- Collins, Cath; Hite, Katherine & Joignant, Alfredo (Eds). *Las políticas de la memoria en Chile: Desde Pinochet a Bachelet*. Santiago de Chile, Ediciones Universidad Diego Portales, 2013.
- Garcés, Mario; Milos, Pedro; Olgún, Myriam; Pinto, Julio; Rojas, María Teresa & Urrutia, Miguel (Compiladores). *Memoria para un nuevo siglo. Chile, miradas a la segunda mitad del siglo XX*. Santiago de Chile, LOM, 2000:
- Illanes, María Angélica, *La batalla de la memoria*. Santiago de Chile, Planeta, 2002.
- Jelin, Elizabeth. *Los trabajos de la memoria*. Buenos Aires, Argentina, Siglo XXI Editores, 2002.
- Lechner, Norbert & Guell, Pedro. “Construcción social de las memorias en la transición chilena”. Lechner, Norbert. *Obras escogidas*. Santiago, Chile, LOM, 2006.
- Magendzo, Abraham (Ed.). *De miradas y mensajes a la educación en Derechos Humanos*. Santiago de Chile, Editorial LOM, 2004.

- Medina Quiroga, Cecilia y Nash Rojas, Claudio, Sistema Interamericano de Derechos Humanos: Introducción a sus mecanismos de protección, Centro de Derechos Humanos, Facultad de Derecho, Universidad de Chile, 2007.
- Péronit-Dumon, Anne (dir.). Historizar el pasado vivo en América Latina. Santiago de Chile, Universidad Alberto Hurtado, 2007
- Salazar, Gabriel. Villa Grimaldi (Cuartel Terranova). Historia, testimonio, reflexión. Santiago de Chile, volumen I, 2013.
- Vinyes, Ricard. (ed.). El Estado y la Memoria. Gobiernos y ciudadanos frente a los traumas de la historia. Barcelona, España, RBA, 2009