

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Economics 3128
Spring 2015
MW 7:35-8:50 (105 Oak Hall)

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Course description: Economic (and social) human rights include the right to an adequate standard of living, the right to work, and the right to basic income guarantees for those unable to work. These rights are grounded in international law - particularly the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. This class will explore the conceptual bases, measurement, and policy applications of economic and social human rights.

Cell Phones: The classroom is our academic community. In order to maintain mutual respect for each and every one of us, all cell phone use is prohibited. That means no text messaging (please leave the classroom quietly if it's necessary to text).

Required texts:

1. Shareen Hertel and Lanse Minkler, eds. *Economic Rights: Conceptual, Measurement and Policy Issues* (Cambridge University Press, 2007) – hereafter, “H&M”
2. Lanse Minkler, ed., *The State of Economic and Social Human Rights: A Global Overview* (Cambridge University Press, 2013) – hereafter, “Minkler”
3. The other Readings will be placed on HuskyCT

Grading: Class participation (20 points); March 11 midterm (30 points); final exam (50 points). Discussion questions based on the next week's reading will be posted on HuskyCT so you can meaningfully participate in class discussions. Class participation requires attendance, so roll will be taken at the beginning of each class. Based on principles of fairness, you will be counted as present only if you make roll. There is no make-up midterm, but those with valid excuses may put the weight on the final. Exams are open book/notes. There will also be extra credit opportunities for those attending select human rights talks. The grading scale follows:

90 +	A
85 - 89	A-
80 - 84	B+
75 - 79	B
70 - 74	B-
65 - 69	C+
60 - 64	C
55 - 59	C-
50 - 54	D+
45 - 49	D
40 - 44	D-

SECTION I. INTRODUCTION

Banerjee, A. and E. Duflo. "The Economic Lives of the Poor," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 21, 1 (2007): 141-167.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Appendix 1 in H&M
International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, Appendix 2 in H&M

Hertel and Minkler, Chapter 1: "Economic Rights: The Terrain," in H&M

Minkler, Chapter 1: "Introduction: Why Economic and Social Rights?," in Minkler

SECTION II. CURRENT POLICY FRAMEWORK

Besley, Timothy and Robin Burgess, "Halving Global Poverty," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 17 (2003): 3-22.

Rodrik, Dani. "Goodbye Washington Consensus?" *Journal of Economic Literature* 44 (December 2006): 973-987.

Tarp, Finn, 2006. "Aid and Development," *Swedish Economic Policy Review* 13: 9-61.

World Bank, 2008 WORLD DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS: Poverty Data- A Supplement to World Development Indicators 2008.

SECTION III. CONCEPTUAL ISSUES

A. Introduction

Chapters from: Donnelly, Jack, *Universal Human Rights: In Theory and Practice* (Cornell University Press, 2003) Chapter 1: "The Concept of Human Rights," Chapter 2: "The Universal Declaration Model," Chapter 3: "Equal Concern and Equal Respect"

Reddy, Sanjay, 2011. "Economics and Human Rights: A Non-Conversation," *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities* 12:1, 63-72.

B. Foundations: Needs

Wiktor Osiatynski "Needs-Based Approach to Social and Economic Rights," Chapter 3 in H&M.

C. Foundations: Basic Rights

Shue, Henry. *Basic Rights: Subsistence, Affluence, and U.S. Foreign Policy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2nd Edition, 1996), Chapters 1-2, pages 13-64.

D. Foundations: Freedoms

Amartya Sen, 2004, "Elements of a Theory of Human Rights," *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 32, 315-356.

E. Foreign Policy and International Obligations

Thomas Pogge. "World Poverty and Human Rights" (Introduction to special issue), *Ethics and International Affairs*, 19, 1 (2005): 1-7.

SECTION IV. INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AND POLICY ISSUES

A. Right to Food

Susan Randolph and Shareen Hertel, Chapter 2: "The Right to Food: A Global Perspective," in Minkler.

B. Right to Health

Audrey Chapman and Salil Benegal, Chapter 3: "Globalization and the Right to Health," in Minkler.

C. Right to Housing

Cathy Albisa, Brittany Scott, and Kate Tissington, Chapter 4: "Demolishing Housing Rights in the Name of Market Fundamentalism: The Dynamics of Displacement in the United States, India, and South Africa," in Minkler.

D. Right to Social Security

Lyle Scruggs, Christian Zimmermann, and Christopher Jeffords, Chapter 5: "Implementation of the Human Right to Social Security around the World: A Preliminary Analysis of National Social Protection Laws," in Minkler

E. Right to Work

Philip Harvey, Chapter 6: "Benchmarking the Right to Work," in H&M.

Minkler, Lanse 2011. "On the Cost of Economic Rights in the U.S.," *Journal of Human Rights* 10:1, 34-54.

Philip Harvey, Chapter 6: "Why is the Right to Work So Hard to Secure?," in Minkler

F. Environmental Rights

Shari Collins-Chobanian, "Beyond Sax and Welfare Interests: A Case for Environmental Rights," *Environmental Ethics Journal*, vol. 22 (Summer 2000):

Christopher Jeffords, Chapter 13: "Constitutional Environmental Human Rights: A Descriptive Analysis of 142 National Constitutions," in Minkler

G. Article 28 of the UDHR

Mark Gibney, Chapter 10: "Establishing a Social and International Order for the Realization of Human Rights," in Minkler

Gillian MacNaughton, Chapter 11: “Beyond a Minimum Threshold: The Right to Social Equality,” in Minkler

H. Instantiation and Constitutionalization of Economic Rights

Minkler, Lanse. “Economic Rights and Political Decision-making,” *Human Rights Quarterly* 31, 2 (May 2009): 368-393.

I. The Case for Liberalization

Susan Dichlitch and Rhoda Howard-Hassmann, Chapter 15: “Public Policy and Economic Rights in Ghana and Uganda,” in H&M.

J. Economic Rights in the USA

David Finger and Rachel E. Luft, 2011. “No Shelter: Disaster Politics in Louisiana and the Struggle for Human Rights.” In Hertel and Libal (Eds) *Human Rights in the United States: Beyond Exceptionalism*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

SECTION V. MEASUREMENT

Audrey R. Chapman, Chapter 7: “The Status of Efforts to Monitor Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,” in H&M.

Mwangi S. Kimenyi, Chapter 9: “Economic Rights, Human Development Effort, and Institutions,” in H&M.

David L. Cingranelli and David L. Richards, Chapter 10: “Measuring Government Effort to Respect Economic and Social Human Rights: A Peer Benchmark,” in H&M.

Fukuda-Parr, Sakiko, Terra Lawson-Remer and Susan Randolph. “An Index of Economic and Social Rights Fulfillment: Concept and Methodology,” *Journal of Human Rights* 8, 1 (2009): 195-221.

Susan Randolph, Fukuda-Parr, Sakiko, and Terra Lawson-Remer. “Economic and Social Rights Fulfillment Index: Country Scores and Rankings,” *Journal of Human Rights* 9, 3 (2010): 230-261.

Elizabeth Kaletski, Lanse Minkler, Nishith Prakash, and Susan Randolph, 2014. Does Constitutionalizing Economic and Social Human Rights Promote Their Fulfillment?” Unpublished Working Paper.

Shawna E. Sweeney, Chapter 11: “Government Respect for Women’s Economic Rights: A Cross-National Analysis, 1981-2003,” in H&M.

Lanse Minkler and Shawna Sweeney, 2011. “On the Indivisibility and Interdependence of Basic Rights in Developing Countries,” *Human Rights Quarterly* 33(2): 351-396.