ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Economics 3128                      Lanse Minkler
Spring 2015                          328 Oak Hall (MW 9-10)
MW 7:35-8:50 (105 Oak Hall)           Alanson.minkler@uconn.edu; 486-4070

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:


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


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


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

SECTION III. CONCEPTUAL ISSUES

A. Introduction


B. Foundations: Needs
Wiktor Osiatynski “Needs-Based Approach to Social and Economic Rights,” Chapter 3 in H&M.

C. Foundations: Basic Rights
D. Foundations: Freedoms

E. Foreign Policy and International Obligations

SECTION IV. INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AND POLICY ISSUES

A. Right to Food

B. Right to Health

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

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


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

F. Environmental Rights


G. Article 28 of the UDHR
Gillian MacNaughton, Chapter 11: “Beyond a Minimum Threshold: The Right to Social Equality,” in Minkler

**H. Instantiation and Constitutionalization of Economic Rights**

**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**

**SECTION V. MEASUREMENT**


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.


