ARTS3874

Culture and Human Rights

Term Two // 2021

School of Social Sciences // UNSW Arts, Design & Architecture

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Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Kaira Canete	k.canete@unsw.edu.au	NA	NA	NA

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Room 159

Morven Brown C20

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

This course explores the rise of human rights discourse and its relationship to other discourses on suffering and social justice. It focuses on the experience of victims of human rights abuse and the politics of meaning. Students will engage in critiques of law as a reductionist discourse on the social by exploring the relationships between human rights and cultural differences such as gender, ethnicity, religion and indigenous cultures. The embodied self, social interdependency and the architecture of social institutions are the backdrop through which the course explores the tensions between universal and relativist understandings of human rights and their realization. Students will be introduced to the fundamentals of human rights, the global human rights machinery, and the ethics of humanitarian intervention, and will consider how sociologists and anthropologists have studied and written about human rights.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Apply a knowledge of human rights to various local, national and transnational contexts
2. Compare universalist v. relativist positions on culture
3. Explain the contested theories of human rights
4. Explain the basis for individual protection

Teaching Strategies

As a third year course, the teaching strategy relies on an intensive 3-hour seminar to allow deep discussion and exchange.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Research Essay	45%	02/08/2021 05:00 PM	1, 3, 4
Concept development writing – blog posts	40%	30/07/2021	1, 3, 4
Reflective statement	15%	02/08/2021 05:00 PM	2, 3, 4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Research Essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 2,500 words

Details:

The research essay is 2500 words and submitted in a final portfolio. The final portfolio includes the essay, one blog post and the reflective statement.

Students research and write on a topic in depth that reflects course content and develop their own specialised references as evidence of further research. Students must demonstrate a clear argument; illustrate it with evidence (references, case studies); and take up a critical position on the topic discussed. Assessed will be knowledge of human rights and their contestation in various contexts, ability to work collaboratively, demonstrated through engagement with blog posts and developing of research skills. Written feedback provided 2 weeks after submission.

Assessment 2: Concept development writing – blog posts

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 400 words weekly entries

Details:

Students will write a weekly entry (weeks 2 to 10) responding to readings and critical engagement human rights issues. Weekly entries are required (400 words each week). Students are expected to engage with and comment on the posts of other students in developing knowledge of human rights discourses and specific case studies.

In class feedback will be given in Week 3 and written feedback on the quality of posts in Week 5. Students will submit three posts for marking at the end of Week 7. One blog post will be included in the final portfolio. The post which relates most closely to the concepts developed in the final essay should be included in the portfolio.

Assessment 3: Reflective statement

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 600 words

Details:

The reflective statement is 600 words and submitted in a final portfolio. This task gets students to think about research processes, for example, for the production of the materials that are discussed in this course. Students compose a reflective statement on challenges of access to empirical data in this space and how to pose impactful critiques. The task also requires students to reflect on knowledge building over the trajectory of the course, including engagement with the weekly posts of students in the course. Assessment will be against the ability to pose critiques of contested theories of human rights and the demonstration of an understanding of the research process. Students will receive written feedback 2 weeks after submission

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

View class timetable

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 31 May - 4 June	Lecture	Introduction
Week 2: 7 June - 11 June	Lecture	Global debates on human rights
Week 3: 15 June - 18 June	Lecture	Value and property
Week 4: 21 June - 25 June	Lecture	Biopolitiics
Week 5: 28 June - 2 July	Lecture	Witnessing and testimony
Week 6: 5 July - 9 July	Online Activity	Online classroom
Week 7: 12 July - 16 July	Lecture	Modernity and rationality
Week 8: 19 July - 23 July	Lecture	Indigenous perspectives
Week 9: 26 July - 30 July	Lecture	Visual cultures of change
Week 10: 2 August - 6 August	Lecture	Trauma, memory and reconciliation

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Resources are available on Moodle

Recommended Resources

Resources are available on Moodle

Course Evaluation and Development

Resources are available on Moodle

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.
http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.