

**Human Rights and Culture**  
ANT 4006  
University of Florida, Department of Anthropology  
Fall 2015  
M 9:35 -11:30 (3-4) MAT 0009  
W 9:35-10:25 (3) MAT 0105

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**Course description**

Since the end of World War II human rights have emerged as the dominant frame for thinking about social justice. The relationship between universal human rights and respect for cultural diversity has spurred much debate, not the least within anthropology. This course provides an introduction to the study of human rights and culture. In addition to a general introduction to human rights theory and practice, the course provides an overview of anthropology's engagement with human rights. We will critically explore key human rights concepts and study texts that reflect the dominant theoretical discussions within the field, such as e.g. the relationship between universalism and relativism, individual vs. communal rights, and the origins of human rights. We will also scrutinize challenges related to the implementation of globally formulated human rights ideas into culturally diverse localities.

**Course materials**

All the course materials will be posted on Canvas and include book chapters, journal articles, newspaper articles, and multi-media sources.

**General Course objectives**

The following are the objectives I as an instructor have for this course

- Ensure that students master the course subject matter
- Develop students' ability to use course concepts in thinking and problem solving
- Prepare students to be life-long learners
- Develop students' interpersonal and team interaction skills
- Have students enjoy the course

## **Course outcomes**

When finished with this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Identify and critically discuss the special features of the international human rights system and key human rights concepts (e.g. dignity, respect, individual rights, group rights etc.)
- Provide an overview of the major human rights declarations
- Provide a general overview of the history of the modern human rights movement
- Critically reflect on the origins of human rights ideas and norms
- Critically reflect on the interplay between human rights and culture
- Explain and identify different approaches to human rights within anthropology
- Contribute with critical reflections in major human rights debates and controversies that have been generated by anthropology
- Employ competing anthropological and social theories to critically discuss human rights norms and practices and issues such as gender equality, violence against women, conflict resolution, etc.
- Read a newspaper article about a human rights issue with an anthropological lens
- Use relevant research to explore and test ideas and to support or refute generalization

## **Course structure**

This class is structured after the team-based-learning (TBL) strategy, first developed by Larry Michaelsen. The course encourages collaboration and active learning for individuals and teams. Most in-class time will be spent working on team activities. While content knowledge also is an important part of the TBL strategy, the course will have a major focus on how to apply the concepts and theories that are introduced. The TBL strategy is specifically designed to enhance your problem solving skills and to develop your level of critical thinking. The strategy is well researched and a number of studies have shown that it has improved student performance. TBL is currently being used in a number of disciplines, including medicine, history, literature, anthropology and law.

Permanent teams will be formed during the first week of the semester. Each team will have their own team folder, where scores of the team Readiness Assessment Test (tRAT, see below for more information) and other assignments will be recorded.

The course itself is divided into seven modules, combining theoretical and thematic elements. Each module will contain specific learning objectives for that module and readings that will enable you to reach these objectives. Below is a *preliminary* schedule.

## PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC/IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES	PRE-CLASS PREPARATIONS
<b>COURSE INTRODUCTION</b>		
Monday 8/24/2015	Introduction The basics of Team-Based Learning (TBL) Student expectations Team formation	
Wednesday 8/26/2015	Practice Readiness Assessment Test (This test does not count towards your grade, but will introduce you to the process of testing associated with TBL) Application	<u>Read:</u> Syllabus The Universal Declaration of Human Rights <a href="http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml">http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml</a>  <u>Watch:</u> The Story of Human Rights <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oh3BbLk5UIQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oh3BbLk5UIQ</a>
<b>MODULE I: INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS</b>		
Monday 8/31/2015	<b>Module1:</b> <b>Readiness Assessment Test</b> Grade weighing	<u>Read:</u> Donnelly, J. (2013) Chapter 1 & 2 Fact Sheet No.2 (Rev.1) The International Bill of Human Rights
Wednesday 9/2/2015	<i>The Human Rights Concept</i> Application	<u>Prepare for application:</u> “How would YOU define Human Rights?”
Monday 9/7/2015	NO CLASS	
Wednesday 9/9/2015	<i>The International Bill of Human Rights</i> Applications	<u>Read:</u> The Universal Declaration of Human Rights The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights <u>Prepare for applications:</u> “US-teens in solitary confinement” “Detained Al-jazeera journalist in Egypt”

## MODULE II: HUMAN RIGHTS – THEORY, CONCEPTS AND CONTESTATIONS

Monday 9/14/2015	<b>Module II Readiness Assessment Test</b> Applications: What does it mean to be a person? Start working on poster for gallery walk	<u>Read:</u> Dembour, M-B. (2010) What are Human Rights? Four schools of thought Beattie, J. (1980) Review article: Representations of the self in traditional Africa Menkiti, I. Person and Community in African Traditional thought Kymlicka, W. (1996) The Good, the Bad and the Intolerable: Minority Group Rights
Wednesday 9/16/2015	Application: Gallery Walk	
Monday 9/21/2015	<i>Economic and Social rights</i> Applications	<u>Read:</u> Alston, P. & Goodman, R. (2012) Economic and Social Rights <u>Prepare for applications:</u> <i>The right to water?</i> <i>Are Civil and Political Rights more fundamental than Economic and Social Rights?</i>
Wednesday 9/23/2015	<i>Dignity</i> Applications	<u>Read:</u> Nordenfeldt, L. (2004) The varieties of dignity Hayry, M. (2004) Another look at dignity <u>Prepare for applications:</u> <i>Dignity and bio-technology</i> <i>Dignity and Charity-ads</i>

## MODULE III: HUMAN RIGHTS, CULTURE AND ANTHROPOLOGY

Monday 9/28/2015	<b>Module III Readiness Assesment Test</b>	<b>READ:</b> Merry, S.E. (2003) Human Rights and the Demonization of Culture (and anthropology along the way) American Anthropological Association (1947) Statement on Human Rights Barnett, H.G. (1948) On Science and Human Rights Steward, J. H. (1948) Comments on the Statement on Human Rights American Anthropological Association (1999) Declaration on Anthropology and Human Rights Messer, E. (1993) Anthropology and Human Rights
Wednesday 9/30/2015	<i>The universalism vs. cultural relativism debate</i> Applications	<u>Read:</u> Rosaldo, R. (2000) On Headhunters and Soldiers. Separating Ethical and Cultural Relativism Engle, K. (2001) From Skepticism to Embrace:

		Human Rights and the American Anthropological Association from 1947-1999 Eriksen, T.H. (2001) "Between Universalism and Relativism: A Critique of the UNESCO Concept of Culture.
Monday 10/5/2015	<i>Should anthropologists be human rights activists?</i> Applications	Read: Speed, S. (2006) At the Crossroads of Human Rights and Anthropology: Toward a Critically Engaged Activist Research Cowan, J. K. (2006) An Obligation to "support human rights" unconditionally is misguided moralism Fluehr-Lobban, C. (2006) Advocacy Is a Moral Choice of "Doing Some Good" Nicolaisen, I. (2006) Anthropology should actively promote Human Rights Graham, L.R. (2006) Anthropologists Are Obligated to Promote Human Rights and Social Justice "The Organ Detective" <a href="http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/nancy-scheper-hughes-black-market-trade-organ-detective-84351/">http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/nancy-scheper-hughes-black-market-trade-organ-detective-84351/</a>
Wednesday 10/7/2015	Summarizing lecture	Read: Goodale, M. (2006) Introduction to Anthropology and Human Rights in a New Key
<b>MODULE IV: HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND LEGAL PLURALISM</b>		
Monday 10/12/2015	<b>Module IV Readiness Assessment Test</b>	<b>READINGS:</b> Merry, S.E. (1988) Legal Pluralism Goldfarb, S. F. (2011) A Clash of Cultures: Women, Domestic Violence, and Law in the United States Wilson, R. (2000) Reconciliation and Revenge in Post-Apartheid South Africa: Rethinking Legal Pluralism and Human Rights
Wednesday 10/14/2015	<i>Legal pluralism</i> Applications	Sieder, R. (2013) Sexual Violence and Gendered Subjectivities: Indigenous women's Search for Justice in Guatemala
Monday 10/19/2015	FILM: Shake hands with the devil	Thompson, S. (2011) The Darker Side of Transitional Justice: The power dynamics behind

		Rwanda's Gacaca courts
Wednesday 10/21/2015	Application exercises	
<b>MODULE V: WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY</b>		
Monday 10/26/2015	<b>Module V Readiness Assessment Test</b>	<u>Readings:</u> Hodgson, D.L. (2011) "These are not our priorities": Maasai Women, Human Rights and the Problem of Culture Hoodfar, H. (1993) The Veil in their Minds and on our heads. The persistence of colonial images of Muslim women Scully, P. (2011) Gender, History and Human Rights
Wednesday 10/28/2015	<i>Women's right to education</i> Applications	Sommer, M. (2011) Where the education system and women's bodies collide: The social and health impact of girls' experiences of menstruation and schooling in Tanzania
Monday 11/2/2015	<i>Trafficking and prostitution</i> Applications	Hyland, K.E. (2001) The Impact of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children Breuil, B.C.O. et al (2011) Human trafficking revisited: legal, enforcement and ethnographic narratives on sex trafficking to Western Europe
Wednesday 11/4/2015	<i>Gender equality – a contested concept</i> Lecture	Østebø, M.T. (2015) Translations of Gender Equality in Norway and Ethiopia
<b>VI: THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD</b>		
Monday 11/9/2015	<b>Module VI Readiness Assessment Test</b>	Hart, J. (2006) Saving Children. What role for Anthropology? Boyden, J. & Howard, N. (2013) Why does child trafficking policy need to be reformed? The moral economy of children's movement in Benin and Ethiopia
Wednesday 11/11/2015	<b>NO CLASS – Veteran's day</b>	
Monday 11/16/2015	<i>The Rights of the Child</i> Applications	Montgomery, H. (2000) Imposing Rights? A case study of Child prostitution in Thailand Abebe, T. & Bessek, S. (2011) Dominant Discourses, Debates and Silences on Child Labour in Africa and Asia
Wednesday 11/18/2015	Applications	Archambault, C. (2011) Ethnographic Empathy and the Social Context of Rights: "Rescuing" Maasai Girls from Early Marriage
<b>MODULE VII: ETHNOGRAPHY OF HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICE AND</b>		

<b>DISCOURSE</b>		
Monday 11/23/2015	<b>Module VII Readiness Assessment Test Applications</b>	Wilson, R. A. (1997) Representing Human Rights Violations Englund, H. (2006) Human Rights and Moral Panics: Listening to Popular Grievances Preis, A-B. S. (1996) Human Rights as Cultural Practice: An anthropological Critique
Wednesday 11/25/2015	<b>THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS</b>	
Monday 11/30/2015	Applications	<b>Read:</b> Hale, S. (2005) Colonial Discourse and Ethnographic Residuals: The “Female Circumcision” Debate and the Politics of Knowledge <u>Prepare for application:</u> Africa to Obama: Mind your own business <b>SECOND ESSAY DUE</b>
<b>COURSE CONCLUSION</b>		
Wednesday 12/2/2015	Course review and evaluation	
Monday 12/7/2015	<b>NO CLASS – READING DAY</b>	
Wednesday 12/9/2015	<b>FINAL TEST (ON CANVAS – NO CLASS)</b>	

Each module will follow a sequence known as the Readiness Assurance Process.

*Readiness Assurance Process (RAP)*

The RAP is an integral piece of the TBL Strategy. This process allows you numerous opportunities to demonstrate that you comprehend the readings and course concepts, while receiving immediate feedback on your progress. The RAP takes place in a sequence containing the following components:

**1) Readings**

At the start of each module, you will complete a number of readings outside of class. These readings contain the core concepts and ideas of that particular module. While these will not be the only reading for each unit, they will provide you with the foundation that will be built upon with supplemental readings later on in each unit.

**2) Individual Readiness Assessment Test (I-RAT)**

The first in-class activity for each module is the I-RAT, which is based on the assigned readings. These are in the form of a short quiz featuring multiple-choice

questions focused on the key concepts and ideas of the readings. They are designed both to assess comprehension as well as to maintain accountability for reading the assignments on time. You will take the I-RAT on Canvas so you have to bring your laptop or a device where you can do this during the assigned time in class. If anyone do not have a device that will allow you to have access to Canvas during class, please let me know. Your I-RAT scores will be anonymous.

### **3) Team Readiness Assessment Test (T-RAT)**

Right after finishing the I-RAT you will take the same test as a team. You are allowed to discuss the questions as a team and decide on an answer for each question. For the group test you will use a special “scratch-off” answer sheet that immediately tells you whether you have the correct answer. The teams T-RAT scores will be posted on Canvas so teams can monitor one another’s performance.

### **4) Appeals**

After the T-RATs are completed, students can appeal any question they missed on the team test. Students can submit any reasons they want for arguing that their answer should be considered correct instead of wrong. Appeals are only granted when an argument is presented demonstrating comprehension of the concepts. An appeal must be submitted in writing and explain in a couple of short paragraphs why the team believes its answer to be correct. *Direct evidence from the reading must be used and cited.* Appeals are to be submitted in e-mail to the instructor within 24 hours after class. If the appeal is successful, the points will be added to the team score as well as for any individual that answered the same way as the team. Any team members who had the question correct initially will continue to receive credit on the question. ONLY the members of a team that appeal will be eligible for a change in score, meaning each team must complete and submit a separate appeal. If an appeal is unsuccessful (or your team does not submit an appeal) you will not receive points of the question, regardless of whether or not other teams successfully appeal the question.

### Applications

Most of the class meetings will consist of team-based activities that will allow you to apply the material learned from the readings. I will assign different types of applications including gallery-walks (more information in class) and debates. Most of the application exercise will, however pose a question (often based on a news article, a case, a film), and require that you as a Team make a decision. Your Team will need to poll each member, listen to each member’s ideas and their explanation for why their idea should be supported, and then reach a Team consensus. At the end of your deliberation, all of the Teams will simultaneously show their decisions. Then we will discuss the question as a class. Over the semester we will do many smaller applications. 6 randomly selected Team Applications will be graded. The Team Portion of each graded application is worth 20 points and will be posted on Canvas.



### Essays

These are short essays of maximum 1200 words. The objective of these papers is to help you develop your writing abilities. As part of the group applications we will work on how to hammer out arguments and on how to support an argument through active and critical engagement with course theory and literature. In these essays you are challenged to work on this at an individual level. More information about the format of these essays will be given in class and posted on Canvas.

### Final test

The final test will consist of multiple-choice questions and short essay questions. The majority of the questions in the final test will be drawn from the pool of questions in the Readiness Assurances Tests.

### Peer Evaluation

One of the most significant concerns with working in a group and receiving team grades is that some of the members of the team may work harder than others or “free-ride” off those in the group willing to put in more effort. You will be given a chance to evaluate your team member peers during the course. There will be an informal evaluation at the mid-term point, used as feedback for individual team members. At the end of the semester, each of you will complete a confidential “peer evaluation” to assess the contribution of the other members of your team. You will be evaluating each member on his or her participation in team activities. (Did they come to class regularly? Were they prepared for the day’s activity? Did they contribute productively to the team? Respect others’ ideas?) These evaluations are completely anonymous and give you a chance to reward or punish teammates based upon their team efforts. I will provide more information about this in class.

### Extra Credit

You will have the opportunity to earn extra credit through individual and group efforts. More information about this will be given in class.

## **Grading**

Grades are based on three categories of evaluations

A) Individual Performance	
a. 7 IRAT scores, 20 points each	140
b. 2 essays, 50 points each	100
c. Final test	100
d. Attendance	100
e. Extra credit bonus point	20
B) Team Performance	
a. 7 GRAT scores, 20 points each	140

- b. 6 graded Team Applications, 20 points each 120
- c. Extra credit bonus points 20
- C) Team Contribution
  - a. Mid-term peer evaluation 100
  - b. Final peer-evaluation 100

You will decide, as a class, how much each category above will contribute to your final grade. We will decide these proportions during the second week of the course. Your final grade will be determined by your standing in the overall distribution within our class.

### Grading scale

GRADE	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
TOT %	94-100	88-93	82-87	76-81	71-75	66-70	61-65	56-60	51-55	46-50	40-45	<40

## **Course policies**

### Attendance

Since graded in-class activities constitute a significant part of your grade, frequent absences will affect your overall course grade. *There are no make-up opportunities for in-class activities, except for in cases of excusable absences.* In the case of an excusable absence you must notify me PRIOR to the missed class AND provide a doctor's note or note from the proper University authorities. For information on excusable absence see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

*If you know that it will be difficult for you to consistently get to class on time and stay the entire period, you should drop this course and take it the next time it is offered, when you have more time.*

Since I understand that emergencies may arise, you may fall ill, or just not be having a good day, this course does have two built-in "safety valves":

- 1) The lowest I-RAT and T-RAT scores will be dropped from your final grade calculation
- 2) The lowest grade on the application exercises will be dropped.

## **UF Policies**

### Academic Honesty

When students enroll at UF they commit themselves to honesty and integrity. As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed

the following statement: *“I understand the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.”*

On work submitted for credit by UF students, the following pledge is either required or implied: *“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”*

### Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crisis or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing are encouraged to utilize the university’s counseling resources. The UF Counseling and Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students.

1. Counseling and Wellness Center, <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>
2. Student Health Care Center: <http://shcc.ufl.edu/>

For an overview of various resources see <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help>

### Disabilities:

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### Technical assistance:

For issues with technical difficulties for Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu)
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>