

BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE (BITS) PILANI
K. K. Birla Campus, GOA
INSTRUCTION DIVISION
FIRST SEMESTER 2014-2015

Course Title: **Human Rights: History, Theory, Practice**

Course No: **HSS F350**

Lecture hrs: **M, Wed, Fri 2.00-2.50 p.m. (C-405)**

Instructor: Madhvi Gupta

Instructor's office hrs: **TBA (A-415)**

Scope and objectives:

The world is still a place where there are more countries in which human rights are routinely violated than those where they are effectively protected. In this course, students will first be introduced to the concept of human rights, its origins and history, and the multiple meanings and debates on human rights. This will be followed by a focus on some specific human rights issues that are of great relevance in the contemporary period. The concluding section will evaluate the past and present status of human rights.

The larger objective of the course is to engage with and understand the concept of human rights and appreciate the proper place of political, civil, social and economic rights in the 21st century.

Text Book (TB):

Donnelly, Jack, 2013. *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice*, 3rd Edition. Cornell University Press.

NOTE: The 2nd edition of the book is also acceptable. The page numbers listed below are from this edition.

Other readings (required): A set of other required readings, mostly online sources (such as newspaper articles, op-eds, reports, journal articles and others) will be posted on moodle.

Evaluation scheme:

Component	Duration	Assigned marks	Time & Date
Test 1	1 hr	20	4.00-5.00 pm 14 Sept 2014
Test 2	1 hr	20	4.00-5.00 am 19 Oct 2014
Class presentation (group)/ discussion – 1 (one)	Approx 15-20 mins	20 (15 marks for presentation; 5 for discussion questions)	To be assigned in class
Comprehensive exam	2 or 3 hrs	40	9 am-12 noon 5 Dec 2014

Make-up policy: Make-up will be granted only under exceptional conditions (illness, death in the family) and on submission of relevant documentation.

Course Plan:

No. of Lectures	Topic	Readings
4	Introduction-meaning, relevance, key observations	TB-1-21; 38-53.
8	Debating human rights: Political and civil rights; social and economic rights; cultural relativism and universal human rights; individual and group rights	TB-57-123; 204-24.
2	The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)	TB-22-37.
2	The Spread of human rights	TBA
2	The UN & human rights	TB-127-54.
4	Foreign policy and human rights	TB-155-81.
2	Humanitarian intervention	TB-242-60.
4	Genocide	TB-242-60; TBA
2	Human Rights in the 21 st century	Howard-Hassmann, Rhoda E. 2005. The Second Great Transformation: Human Rights Leapfrogging in the Era of Globalization. <i>Human Rights Quarterly</i> 27 (2005) 1–40.
10	Student presentations & discussion	NA

TOTAL - 40 lectures/contact hours