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Human Rights in Global Politics

Human rights are often associated with global justice, but there are many who would argue that global justice has been scant at best. This course will suggest a different, more optimistic perspective, and using examples from around the world, will show where human rights have been most effective and where human rights are under attack. The biggest obstacle to achieving a comprehensive and effective implementation of human rights in the world is the political opportunism that persistently rears its head in nearly every part of the globe. We will explore when and how that happens, and what can be done about it.

There are no required readings for this course.

Week One: September 27

Human Rights: What they are and what they aren't

Week Two: October 4

Generations of rights and the rights of generations

Week Three: October 11

Human rights and human identity

Week Four: October 18

Difficult places: human rights outside the system

Week Five: October 25

Human rights in motion: refugees, migrants, and asylum-seekers

Week Six: November 1

New challenges for human rights: justice delayed?