



EUROPE, REGIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMER SCHOOL

Cagliari, 13th – 27th July 2013

SYLLABUS

Course name: Political and Economic Human Rights

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Description of the course:

Adopted against the background of the horrors of the Second World War, the Universal Declaration was the first attempt by all States to agree, in a single document, on a comprehensive catalogue of the rights of the human person. As its name suggests, it was not conceived of as a treaty but rather a proclamation of basic rights and fundamental freedoms, bearing the moral force of universal agreement. Its purpose has thus been described as setting a common standard. Broadly speaking, the Universal Declaration sets down two broad categories of rights and freedoms - civil and political rights, on the one hand, and economic, social and cultural rights, on the other.

In the first section I will start with brief overview of the General Assembly of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other treaties. All these treaties follow the same model. They contain a series of substantive rights, the so called "normative" part of the treaty and define the basic rights. We will discuss the six major parts of Covenant.

The second lecture will be focused on that widely accepted understanding of the respective responsibilities of business and government for Human Rights in an industrialized world. Without question, this arrangement has resulted in substantial improvements in the quality of life in the industrialized world in the last 60 years. I argue that with advance of economic globalization and the growing power and influence of transnational corporations, this division of responsibilities is not longer viable or defensible. The last 20 years has witnessed a striking new phenomenon in strategies to protect human rights: a shift by global actors concerned about human rights from nearly exclusive attention on the abuses committed by governments to close scrutiny of the activities of business enterprises, in particular multinational corporations. For understanding the present situation we will go back in history: Colonial Era, Decolonization and its aftermath, imbalance of economic power between North and South and last not but least Human Rights and business in a globalize marketplace and there consequences (i.g. Savar building collapse 2013, Bangladesh).

Aims:

The aim of this lecture is to advance the knowledge on Political and Economic Human Rights.

Bibliography (provided as pdf):

Civil and Political Rights: The Human Rights Committee - Fact Sheet 15

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Handbook for National Human Rights Institutions. Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (2005)

Format:

Power point presentation; film sequences; discussion in seminarial form

Date and time	Title
17 July 2013	Civil and Political Rights
18 July 2013	Economic Rights