UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF THE FRASER VALLEY

COURSE INFORMATION

DISCIPLINE/DEPARTMENT: Philosophy and Politics **IMPLEMENTATION DATE**: January 1999

Revised: _____

Political Science 330	Human Rights: Theory and History	3
SUBJECT/NUMBER OF COURSE	**DESCRIPTIVE TITLE**	**UCFV CREDITS**

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: The language of human rights is woven into the fabric of our culture, society and political discourse. This course will examine different notions of rights and responsibilities, and the history of these ideas as they are embodied in various organizations and institutions.

RATIONALE: We have no course that explicitly deals with such timely issues as the history and theory (theories) of human rights. This is somewhat puzzling since the liberal west is grounded in the language of rights and responsibilities.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: 9 credits of Philosophy or Political Science, including *one* of the following:
Political Science 120, 190, 195, 270, Philosophy 110, 210, 230

COURSE COREQUISITES: None

HOURS PER TERM FOR EACH STUDENT	**Lecture**		**hrs**	**Student Directed Learning**		**hrs**
	Laboratory		**hrs**	**Other - specify:**		
	Seminar	**45**	**hrs**	_____		**hrs**
	Field Experience		**hrs**	**TOTAL**	**45**	**HRS**

MAXIMUM ENROLMENT: 30

Is transfer credit requested? : **Yes** **9** **No**

AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURES:

Course Designer(s): Ron Dart **Chairperson**: _____

Curriculum Committee (E. Davis)

Department Head: _____ **Dean**: _____

Jeffrey Morgan J.D. Tunstall

PAC: Approval in Principle _____ **PAC: Final Approval**: March 25, 1998

(Date) **(Date)**

OUTLN95/01/dd

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SYNONYMOUS COURSES:

(a) replaces N/A
(course #)

(b) cannot take N/A for further credit
(course #)

SUPPLIES/MATERIALS:

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS (List reading resources elsewhere)

R.P. Claude, Human Rights in the World Community: Issues and Action (1989)
J. Donnelly, International Human Rights (1993)
J. Donnelly, Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice (1989)
R. Drinan, Cry of the Oppressed: The History and Hope of the Human Rights Revolution (1987)
R. Evans, Human Rights: A Dialogue Between the First and Third Worlds (1983)
D. Gillies, Between Principle and Practice: Human Rights in North-South Relations (1996)
D. Matas, No More: The Battle Against Human Rights Violations (1994)
A. Mayer, Islam and Human Rights: Tradition and Politics (1991)
R. Matthews, Human Rights in Canadian Foreign Policy (1988)
C. Muzaffer, Human Rights and the New World Order (1993)
S. Shute, On Human Rights: The Oxford Amnesty Lectures (1993)

OBJECTIVES:

1. to acquaint students with the various theories of human rights
2. to discuss each of these theories within their historic context (past and present)
3. to develop the ability to weigh the validity and limitation of different perspectives of human rights
4. to track how theories of human rights are implemented and interpreted in various think tanks, human rights organizations and formal politics
5. to give some conceptual clarity to the meaning of human rights

METHODS:

The course will follow a seminar format. Readings will be assigned from various periods in history that have dealt with human rights. We will examine how our understanding of human rights has changed over the centuries and the present conflicts within the human rights community (and outside of it).

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STUDENT EVALUATION PROCEDURE:

Students will be evaluated in four ways:

1. Class presentation 30%
2. Midterm paper 30%
3. Final exam 30%
4. Class participation 10%

COURSE CONTENT

Human Rights: Theory and History

I. Natural Law and Human Rights: Concord and Discord
II. The 17th Century: The Petition of Right (1628) and The Bill of Rights (1689)
III. The 18th Century: Thomas Paine and Mary Wollstonecraft
IV. The 18th Century: The French Revolution and The Rights of Man — the Tricolor
V. The First Generation of Rights (political, civil, legal)
VI. The Second Generation of Rights (Social, cultural, economic)
VII. The Nuremberg Trials, Tokyo Trials and Nuremberg Principles
VIII. International Law and Human Rights: UDHR-1948
IX. International Law and Human Rights: IBHR-1976
X. The Russell International War Crimes Tribunal
XI. Human Rights and Western Imperialism?
XII. The Challenge to Universal Human Rights: Cultural Relativism and Political Realism
XIII. The Third Generation of Rights (environmental, animal)
XIV. The Power Elite, Pluralism and Human Rights: When Rights Collide