



# Global Justice and Human Rights

## PHIL2810G (001)

### Winter 2012

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| <b>Instructor: Angela White</b><br>Location: Stevenson Hall Room 2150<br>Email: <a href="mailto:awhite36@uwo.ca">awhite36@uwo.ca</a><br>Office hours: Tuesdays 1000-1200h<br>or by appointment | <b>Class Information</b><br>Somerville House Room 2355<br>Mondays 1530–1730h<br>Wednesdays 1530–1630h |
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## 1 Course Description

In this course, we will consider basic issues about human rights and global justice, including: What are human rights? What makes them important? What duties and obligations do human rights generate, and for whom? How should respect for them be promoted or enforced, particularly given so much cultural variation and widely diverse values and beliefs in the world?

## 2 Readings

Brooks, Thom (ed.) (2008) *The Global Justice Reader*. Blackwell Publishing.

### 3 Objectives

The main objective of this course is to learn and understand theories that have been developed to address the aforementioned questions. However, the point of doing so is to be able to use these theories to understand and respond to actual challenges for global justice that have existed in the past, and that continue today in contemporary society, such as war, terrorism, gender-based injustice, and poverty.

To achieve these goals, the course will consist in both lectures and class discussion, which are intended to facilitate understanding the theories, and their strengths and limitations for addressing human rights approaches to global justice issues. Students will be expected to arrive to class with the readings completed, and prepared to critically discuss their own and others' thoughts about the readings and lectures. Also, students will be responsible for engaging with relevant aspects of all of these components of the course – i.e., readings, lectures, and class discussions – in their essays.

### 4 Requirements

- **3 critical essays, 1250–1500 words each, worth 30% each (90% total)**
  - First essay due 8 February 2012
  - Second essay due 7 March 2012
  - Third essay due 9 April 2012
- **Participation 10%**
  - Regular attendance is a necessary but not sufficient requirement for participation grades. This component of the grade will be based heavily on whether students' own participation in class discussions facilitates others to do so as well.

#### **Audit**

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes. The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.