

## Politics 9503A/Philosophy 9119A: Human Rights

Charles Jones

Tuesday 3:30-5:30

This course examines recent debates about the historical, moral, legal, and political aspects of human rights. Some questions to be addressed include: What are human rights? How are they justified? What do human beings have rights to? What is the point of a theory of human rights? Are human rights best understood as moral rights we possess in virtue of being human? Or are they best defined by their practical role in international politics? How does the history of human rights bear on the way we should conceive them? What is the relationship between basic moral rights and human rights law? To what extent are human rights claims subject to feasibility tests? Can groups hold human rights?