Global Rights, Local Action
Exploring Human Rights Through Service Learning in the Humanities

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Introduction – Teaching a New Course on Global Human Rights

Who we are
• Dr. Alonzo Smith
  • History
• Layla M. Hashemi
  • Political Science

About the College
• Student population
• Geographic location
• Recent NEH Grant →
• Global Humanities Institute (GHI)
Global Humanities Institute (GHI) @ Montgomery College

As part of its Bridging Cultures initiative, NEH has awarded the College $490,000 to launch an Institute for Global Humanities Initiatives (IGHI) and a series of related international education programming.

- As a part of the grant, the College will match two-to-one for a total of $1.49 million in funds required for the new NEH Challenge Grant from individual, corporate and foundation gifts over the next six years.
- With the IGHI, Montgomery College will be able to strengthen its long-term humanities programs and resources.
A NEW COURSE ON GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS
PS260: POLITICS IN ACTION

Now with the specific subtopic of “Global Human Rights” (taught Spring 2013)

Course objectives and aims

- Explore the nature of universal human rights in both theory and practice
- Recognize the importance and impact of the media, especially social media, to influence human rights
- Greater appreciation of cultural differences and awareness of global connectedness
PS260: GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Course Materials and Assignments

- Textbook
- Workbook
- Cress on Service Learning
- Library Tutorial
- Learning Management System
  - Reflection blogs
  - Weekly discussion questions
- Online media
  - Documentaries
  - Music videos
  - Images and articles

Service Learning Component

- Introductions, linking with local service learning partner
- In class lectures, discussions, videos and presentations
- Final celebration of service, linking the experience to future academic and career decisions
Human Rights in Theory and Practice

A Few Assumptions (via Daoust and Epperson)

(1) American students are globally and geographically challenged

(2) Human beings have the potential for both good and evil

(3) Conflict, not violence, is the opposite of peace and is inherent in the human condition

(4) The quest to implement human rights as universal and ideal standards that guide social arrangements requires education and constant attention

(5) Peacemaking requires global competence and tolerance for cultural diversity
IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

QUESTIONS AND REFLECTION

• How does the work done by your service learning partner organization relate to the UDHR?

• Using Cress guide on Service Learning to guide discussions and reflection exercises.

FILM SCREENINGS

• War Don Don
  • War crimes

• Zero Dark Thirty
  • Torture,
  • international security
SOCIAL MEDIA AND HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION
Harnessing the Power of the Internet

COURSE BLOG

http://www.ps260.tumblr.com

PS260: Human Rights in the Global Context
PS 260: Human Rights in the Global Context, Profs. Layla Hashemi & Alonzo Smith

Last Updated: Mar 5, 2013  
URL: http://libguides.montgomerycollege.edu/PS260_HashemiR

Choose your research topic

This guide is created to help you with the research projects for PS 260. Click on the tabs above for more information.

- Class Website
- Haiku Site for your class

Comments (0)

Human Rights in the World Community

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- President Carter on Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Comments (0)

Books & E-Books

Here are a few selected books and E-Books from our Catalog. Search the Library Catalog for more Print and E-Books. Login with your MC ID to access E-Books from off-

RSS Feeds from Human Rights Watch

"Human Rights Watch is one of the world’s leading independent organizations dedicated to defending and protecting human rights. By focusing international attention where human rights are violated, this organization has worked to lay the legal and moral groundwork for deep-rooted change and has fought to bring greater justice and security..."

URL: http://libguides.montgomerycollege.edu/PS260_HashemiR
**LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS** Dialogue Outside of the Classroom

**Weekly class discussion questions**

Students respond online to questions related to course content and are able to read and respond to their peers.

**Service Learning Reflection Blogs**

Ends with final presentations about the service learning experience as well as a final paper linking research and service.

**Sample Blog Entry:**

“My service learning project has been going well so far, I usually spend a few hours on a weekday and eight to twelve hours per weekend depending on the events that the organization sponsors. For example, last week was the Hindu festival of Holi, the celebration of spring and colors. Guests would come in with a white t-shirt and leave with all sorts of bright powdered colors on them. We sold food and drinks, and also had a famous spiritual band play for the duration of the event. The temple grounds were packed; we planned for about 100+ people to attend the event but the headcount was over 300+”
SERVICE LEARNING AND HUMAN RIGHTS
SERVICE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Partner Organizations
- Rockville Human Rights Commission
  - David Smith
- Interfaith Works and other intercultural organizations
- Health Care is a Human Right
- Senator Jennie Forehand
- Oxfam Hunger Banquet
Poverty, Inequality And Food Security
Oxfam Hunger Banquet

Please save the date and time for the
Montgomery College
Oxfam Hunger Banquet
Wednesday, February 27th
5-6:30pm, Theater Arts Arena

Take the opportunity to give.

And provide someone an opportunity to receive.

Help us make a change.

Share in an opportunity to experience the inequities of food distribution that plague the world.

At the banquet, 15% of us will receive a sumptuous meal, 35% just beans and rice, and 50% will sit on the floor and receive a small amount of rice and water. Where you will sit will be determined by a random drawing.

We would like to have our entire MC community represented. Contributions will benefit the Manna Food Center and help those that struggle to obtain the basic of all human needs: food.

Tickets Available for Purchase In
Campus Center 005. $5 or 5 non-perishable food items for students (discounts available). Donation can also be made in CCS05 or on the night of the event. $10 for faculty. Sponsorships available.

For disability-related accommodations and for more information contact Nik Sashka at
nik.sashka@montgomerycollege.edu

Co-sponsored by the Office of Student Life, the Peace and Justice Studies Community, the International Studies Club, the Rockville Manna Food Smart Sacks Program and the Rockville Student Senate.

High-income guests are heavily guarded, allowing them to enjoy their luxurious meal in peace.
Health Care is a Human Right
Maryland Chapter

- Fight for universal health care began in Vermont
- Maryland had its launch in December of 2012
“Working with Local Government as a Means of Advancing Global Human Rights and Student Learning”

The commission saw this as an opportunity to advance its outreach and education objectives, particularly in promoting anti-bullying efforts at a local high school. Two students from the course were placed with the commission. They were assigned duties that provided them with an overview of local government, an understanding of the role of citizen commissions, and how human rights issues are present in a local context. The students attended meetings of the commission, provided input on anti-bullying efforts, assisted in the running of a youth diversity leadership workshop for high school students, and met with local officials and groups. The students also met with the city’s mayor and wrote a final paper about their experiences.

davidsmith.wordpress.com

Peacebuilding and Community Colleges
LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

THE DEATH PENALTY IN MD

US state of Maryland abolishes death penalty

Capital punishment repealed in the presence of a former death-row inmate who campaigned for the cause.

Last Modified: 02 May 2013 23:23

http://www.aljazeera.com/news/americas/2013/05/201352186180295.html
Online Resources for the Death Penalty

- Maryland Death Penalty Repeal
- Death Penalty Statistics 2010
- Council of Europe Death Penalty Debate
- The Little Hunchback
- China Death Row Documentary
- Arabian Nights: The Little Hunchback
- Amnesty International Site on the Death Penalty

Death Penalty

Use of the death penalty around the world (as of February 2011).

- Abolished for all offenses (96)
- Abolished for all offenses except under special circumstances (0)
- Retains, though not used for at least 10 years (34)
- Retains death penalty (58)*

* While laws vary among U.S. states, it is considered retentionist because the federal death penalty is still in active use.
Taking Action Against Human Trafficking in Maryland

VIDEO: Human Trafficking http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JT1RuwAI75w
IMAGES OF HUMAN RIGHTS
Linking Course Content to Current Events
THE POWER OF INFOGRAPHICS.

SAVE SYRIA

The Syrian uprising, also known as the Syrian Civil War, is an ongoing, violent internal conflict in Syria. It is part of the wider Arab Spring, a wave of upheaval throughout the Arab world. Public demonstrations across Syria began on 26 January 2011 and developed into a nationwide uprising. Protesters demanded the resignation of President Bashar al-Assad, the overthrow of his government, and an end to nearly five decades of Ba’ath Party rule.

16607
killed in 484 Days

3122

The number of civilians killed since the ceasefire plan on 12-4-2012 of which...

282
were children

298
were females

499
Killed in IDLIB

4702
Killed in HOMS

885
Killed in HAMA

442
Killed in IDARAA

469
Killed in Alraa

15260
Civilians killed

1176
Number of females killed

1347
Military

15431
Number of male killed

79
Killed in IDLIB on 2/1/12

342
Killed in HOMS on 4/2/12

167
Killed in Jar Alshughor on 10/6/11

141
Killed in HOMS on 9/4/2012

SONGS OF PROTEST
OMAR OFFENDUM OF SYRIA

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2012

#SYRIA

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor."
- Archbishop Desmond Tutu

I am a human being who believes in dignity, freedom & equality for all - no exceptions ... I am an artist who strives to reflect those ideals in lyrical form ... This is but a small contribution when compared to the sacrifices being made by beautiful, peace-loving Syrian people on a daily basis.


#SYRIA Music Video
[http://youtu.be/TXjEWrhkb6g](http://youtu.be/TXjEWrhkb6g)
CURRENT EVENTS Through Online Content And Imagery

Syrian children carry pictures of 13-year-old Hamza al-Khatib Photo: REUTERS

Act Like a Man, Dress Like A Woman in Iran/ “Be a Man” Movement

Online, several Kurdish men have photographed themselves dressed as women as part of a Facebook campaign to say, “Being a woman is not an instrument to punish or humiliate anybody.” The photos appear on a Facebook page named Kurd Men for Equality.

Namo Kurdistan writes:

“...To show my solidarity and support to the "womanhood" and their suffer and torments during the history mostly have done by "men" [sic]. as we have faced recently a stupid judge’s order to punish a person by putting on him the feminine customs, so it is one of the times that we should gather around each other and condemn this stupidity, brutality and inhumanity against the womanhood; the half of society as well as at least half of the human being on the earth. I am supporting womanhood by the at least I can do for them.”

Shared on the Facebook page ‘Kurd Men For Equality’
Encouraging Global Community and Citizenship Through Service Learning

**Why Now?** Recent events like #Occupy and the Arab Spring have shown that online media is influencing politics

- Back to **five basic assumptions** $\rightarrow$ there is no room for ignorance in the 21\textsuperscript{st} century

**Why Service Learning? Helps students**

- Network and apply academic knowledge in real-life settings
- Build communications skills
  - Interact with local community organizations
- Solidify future academic and professional goals