The US Constitution and Globalization of Human Rights: Motivation and Contextualization in the Community College Classroom

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Learning Objectives

* Be able to define human rights
* Understand the similarities and differences between US Constitution and UN Declaration on Human Rights
* Understanding the limitations of the universal application of Human Rights through International Organizations
* Evaluate, Critique and Analyze contemporary case studies of human rights abuses and decision maker responses
The Bill of Rights and the Anti-Federalists concern with protection of individual rights

Competing view of Federalists - concerns for functional and strong government

Selective Incorporation, 14th Amendment & Equal Protection Clause as applicable to Human Rights

Contemporary examples of Equal Protection Clause, past and present case precedent
International Context of Human Rights and Challenges of Globalization

* Post WW II Creation of the *Universal Declaration on Human Rights*.
* Formation of the International Criminal Court at the Hague – its options, possibilities and challenges.
* Evaluation of signatories to the Rome Statute that domesticates the provisions of International Law to national constitutions (highlight, Sovereignty, impunity and enforcement)
* Introduction to specific case studies and transition to simulation situations.
Regional Country focus:
* Asia – China & Tibet, North Korea
* Africa – Rwanda, DRC, Liberia
* Middle East – Iran, Syria, Iraq (US involvement, Al Quaida)
* Europe - former Yugoslavia, plight of the Roma in France and Italy, Albania & Kosovo
* North America - Canada (First Nations), US (Native American Reservations) & Mexico (Chiapas & Zapatista land rights issues)
* South America – Argentina (Dirty Wars), Chile (Pinochet war crimes trial)
* Oceania – Australia (Aboriginal Rights), New Zealand (Maori)
Developing real life case study scenarios

Regional Country focus:

Asia – China & Tibet: Dalai Lama appealing to UN Security Council to censure China for genocide in Tibet (North Korea)

Africa – Rwanda, DRC, Liberia, Kenya, Ivory Coast (Bagbo’s Conviction at the ICC an renewed violence in Ivory Coast)

Middle East – Iran, Syria, Iraq (US involvement, Al Quaida) - discuss US fear of its troops being accused at the ICC and the implications

Europe - former Yugoslavia, plight of the Roma in France and Italy, Albania & Kosovo

(evaluating the role of the ICC in the Balkans)
Regional Country focus:

* North America - Canada (First Nations), US (Native American Reservations) & Mexico (Chiapas & Zapatista land rights issues)
* #Discussion the options for Native American populations and the realities of justice vs status quo
* South America – Argentina (Dirty Wars), Chile (Pinochet war crimes trial)
* Oceania – Australia (Aboriginal Rights), New Zealand (Maori)
* #evaluate trends and evolving ideas in human rights, globalization and US Constitutionalism
Community College Classes in Context

1. PS 101 – American Government
2. PS 102 - Comparative Government
3. PS 103 – Ethnic Politics
4. PS 104 - Issues and Trends