Human Rights, Poverty, and Development in Chile

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

In broad terms, this course will cover the problematic of human rights as a global phenomenon and will specifically focus on the particular cases of Latin America and Chile. Starting form a philosophical and legal perspective, we will consider human rights as an historical matter. We will examine the origin and the evolution of this concept in relation to the analysis that it has received in the international conventions. In this course, we will pay special attention to the transnational trials that deal with human rights violations and will thoroughly analyze the Chilean case. Furthermore, the course will aim to familiarize the students with the impact of politics and economics on human rights as well as the relation that it has with poverty in Latin America in general and Chile in particular. To this end, the course will include a field work and visits to organizations that develop programs meant to remedy the situation of poverty in Chile.

II. OBJECTIVES

In this course, students will be expected to:

- Develop a broad understanding of the category of human rights from a philosophical, political and legal perspective with the aim of interpreting the history of the concept.
- Understand the transnational dimension of the category of human rights and its importance for modern democracy.
- Interpret the notion of human rights violations in relation to the Chilean dictatorship.
- Analyze the themes of resistance and the restoration of democracy in Chile with respect to the problems of justice, reparation and the memory of human rights from the perspective of state politics and social movements.
- Make connections between the concept of human rights violations and poverty in Latin America and Chile.
- Become familiar with social communities hoping to generate programs of equity and equality in the framework of the discussion regarding poverty, development, and human rights.
I. General principles and characteristics of human rights


Bibliography:


II. Human Rights and the dictatorship


Human rights as a form of denunciation and resistance: Emblematic cases. The structure of a human rights movement (emergence of distinct types of organizations and public action). The denunciation of international solidarity.

Bibliography:


Visits: Villa Grimaldi

Syllabus for 2017. Final syllabi for subsequent years may be subject to change.

Bibliography:


Advances in the subject of human rights from the perspective the violations of the DDHH during the dictatorship: Impact of the “Pinochet Case”. Memory as a way of advertising human rights.

Bibliography:


Visits: The Museum of Memory

III. Human Rights, Poverty and Development

The Concept of the Culture of Poverty and the different Forms of Poverty in Chile Today: The context of globalization and why it’s important to take into consideration globalization when looking at poverty and development. The culture of poverty is a specific syndrome that grows in some situations. Understanding Poverty in a multidimensional perspective. The importance of Human Development and not only an economic perspective of development as it’s usually measured.

Bibliography:


Lewis, Oscar, The Children of Sanchez, autobiography of a Mexican Family.


Syllabus for 2017. Final syllabi for subsequent years may be subject to change.
Dimensions of Poverty and Inequality in Latin America and Chile: The Neoliberal Experiment in the Military Regime.

Bibliography:


Effect of social services and community infrastructures: Attending to children: environment that complements the home. The inequality of opportunities: educational mobility.


Visits:

Visit to a Non-Governmental Organization with a guideline so the students can observe the different forms of Poverty. Observation of Service Work

Base Communities- Grassroots Organizations: Santa Adriana ORG: Daycare Center.

Cerro Navia Joven: Program for women and teenage mothers. Youth with disabilities.

IV. Assignments

40% Class work. Students are expected to be thoroughly familiar with the material assigned before coming to class. Participation is expected both individually and in group activities.

60% Essays. Students will have to compose two short essays analyzing a literary text, and establishing a link with one of the theoretical readings.

V. Course Requirements

Attendance is mandatory. Unexcused absences will result in lowering of the final grade. The quality and quantity of class participation will be evaluated on a daily basis.

IX. Bibliography


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