I. COURSE OVERVIEW

This elective course helps students to understand human rights principles and how those principles relate to social policies and practices within an international context. The course provides direct experience with social work and related disciplines, like public administration and health, as practiced in Germany and, more generally, the European Union.

This course is designed for students who are interested in learning about other cultures and how different societies view social problems and how they address these problems. While the course is brief, it does provide a foundation from which students can build a more in-depth exposure to international concepts in social policies and practices. A primary purpose of this course is to encourage students to continue studying their discipline in broader context.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course the student should:

1. Understand the historical development of human rights, including political and economic aspects of human rights.
2. Have a basic knowledge of human rights as they relate to social policies and practices.
3. Develop awareness of human rights concepts like cultural relativism, universality, and indivisibility.
4. Comprehend social policies, practices and ethics in an international setting.

II. REQUIRED TEXT FOR COURSE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Students will observe the form and standards of professional discipline in all field visits and lectures during the course. Students will also be sensitive to the culture and environment of the host country. Participation in field visits and lectures is required. **Written instructions regarding assignments appear at the end of this syllabus.**

Grades for three hours of course credit is based on:

**Undergraduate**
- Short Essays (2) 25 percent
- Participation 25 percent
- Power Point Presentation 25 percent
- Observation Paper (5 pages) 25 percent

**Graduate**
- Short Essays (2) 25 percent
- Participation 25 percent
- Power Point Presentation 10 percent
- Research Paper (10 pages) 40 percent

### III. COURSE PROGRAM

**Jan. 3 Saturday**

Arrival in Munich—exact times depend upon departures. Most flights arrive in morning. From the airport, the group/individual will travel to accommodation at a local hostel, which will be very close to the main train station of Munich. More information will be provided.

Once final bookings are made, you will know the hostel where you will be staying and your roommate(s).

At 5:00 p.m., after everyone has settled, we will have an orientation and city walk.

**Jan. 4 Sunday**

**Art and Human Rights**

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Lecture and group processing time.

**12:30 – 5:00 p.m.**
Visit to the famous Pinakothek (Museum in Munich) This visit to the Pinakothek focuses on art as an expression of socio/political experiences and connects those to issues with human rights through art.

**Jan. 5**
**Monday**

**Community and the Elderly**

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Lecture.

12:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Visit at a senior citizen home in Starnberg

Website of agency: [www.seniorentreff-starnberg.de](http://www.seniorentreff-starnberg.de)

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.—Group processing time.

**Jan. 6**
**Tuesday**

**Human Rights of Refugees**

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Lecture.

12:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Visit at a refugee center.

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.—Group processing time.

**Jan. 7**
**Wednesday**

**Human Rights and Dignity**

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Lecture

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Field visit to an agency that works with persons with AIDS/HIV Intervention at host agency.

Lunch at agency

Website of agency:
Jan. 8
Thursday

History and Human Rights Violations

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Lecture.
Read: Chapters 4 and 5 of required text.

12:00- 5:00 p.m.
Travel to and tour of Dachau Memorial Site, former concentration camp. Website of Dachau memorial:
www.kz-gedenkstaette-dachau.de

5:00 p.m.
Group processing time.

Jan. 9
Friday

Resistance to Violations of Human Rights

9:30 -11:30 a.m.
Lecture
Read Chapters 6 and 7 of required text

12:30 p.m.
Leave for University of Munich
Sophie Scholl Center

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Meeting with Professor Gavanza
at the Weisse Rose Gedenkstaette (Memorial)- University of Munich (Ludwig –Maximilian University)

Weiße Rose Stiftung e.V.
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität
Geschwister-Scholl-Platz 1
80539 München
info@weisse-rose-stiftung.de
Tel: +49 +89 2180 5359
Fax: +49 +89 2180 13518

4:00-5:00 p.m.
Group processing time

Jan. 10
Saturday
Excursion (To be announced)

Jan. 11
Sunday
Homeless and Crisis Intervention

10:00 – 11.30 a.m.
Lecture and discussion
Read: Chapters 1, 2, 3 of required text (Reichert)

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Discussion of social issues with various agencies near train station.

Evening: Good bye diner

Jan. 12
Monday
Return to United States

Course finishes and students depart for US or other parts of Europe (extended travel is highly encouraged).

PLEASE NOTE: IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE ON TIME TO EVERY SCHEDULED EVENT. WE WILL GO OVER ALL THE TIMES IN DETAIL DURING THE COURSE. HOWEVER, PLEASE PRINT THIS SYLLABUS OUT AND REFER TO IT DAILY!!!! Also note that some of the times may change to accommodate last minute scheduling needs of agency or other host individuals.
REFERENCES


SUGGESTED INTERNET WEBSITES FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

To keep up-to-date with developments in human rights around the world, the following websites provide resources with which to expand knowledge about human rights issues:

- **Human Rights Watch**: [http://www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)
  
  Human Rights Watch serves primarily to monitor how well countries follow political and civil human rights. Each year, HRW issues a report on countries around the world and discusses the status of political and civil rights within those countries.

- **Human Rights First**: [http://www.humanrightsfirst.org](http://www.humanrightsfirst.org)
  
  This website provides all types of information about human rights and even offers employment, fellowship, and intern possibilities. However, the intern positions do not offer funding.

- **Amnesty International**: [http://www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)
  
  Amnesty International is one of the earliest human rights groups that addressed political and civil rights. Today, AI has expanded its human rights focus to include economic, social, and cultural human rights.

  
  The United Nations website is a wealth of information on human rights, with a specific tab labeled “human rights.” All important UN documents can be found here, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

- **The People’s Movement for Human Rights Learning**: [http://www.pdhre.org](http://www.pdhre.org)
  
  This website has links to a number of human rights developments across the United States.
The above is only a short list of websites that address human rights. However, these websites provide the user with access to detailed information on practically any human rights issue that has relevance today.

SUGGESTED FILMS FOR VIEWING

The Final Days of Sophie Scholl
The Ninth Day
The Reader
The Lives of Others
The Pianist
Judgment at Nuremburg

Films can be obtained via your library or an internet provider like Netflix or Amazon.
STUDY ABROAD ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

1. Power Point Presentation
2. **Undergraduate Students**: Observation Paper
3. **Graduate Students**: Research Paper
4. Two Short Essays
5. Participation

If you are not taking the course for credit, then you do not need to complete any of the assignments listed under 1-4. However, you are expected to participate in the course the same as someone who is taking the course for credit.

The deadline for assignments 1-4 will be February 15, 2015 but I am flexible on this.

ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES #1
POWER POINT PRESENTATION

Instructions for the Power Point Presentation will be discussed during course. Basically, you are to briefly describe each agency we visit and provide an overview of that agency. You should include photos and describe the connection each agency has to human rights. For an example of a past presentation, please refer to the course website. I have now revised this assignment to include all agencies.
ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES #2
OBSERVATION PAPER
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Observation paper—The purpose of this paper is to demonstrate your perspective on one of the agency or field visits during the course. You are to select a particular field visit and describe your impressions of that visit. You should briefly state what the agency/institution/memorial site does and its goals. You should include in your observation what particular human rights principle the field visit covers—use the Universal Declaration or other human rights document for this. You can then state how the field visit meets or does not meet these principles. You should describe your own impressions—I prefer this to something out of a brochure about the field visit. This can be rather difficult and you should give this some thought. Most importantly, you should provide a human rights perspective in this paper.

The length of the observation paper should be around five double-spaced pages.

ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES #3
RESEARCH PAPER
GRADUATE STUDENTS

Research paper—The purpose of this paper is analyze a particular policy or practice that the course has covered. For example, this could be policies relating to the elderly or homeless. You should include in your analysis the particular human rights principle to which the policy or practice relates. Use the Universal Declaration and other human rights documents for this. You need to detail with observations and citations how the policy or practice relates to human rights principles. Does the policy or practice fulfill human rights principles? Conclude the paper by summarizing your findings.

The length of the research paper should be around ten double-spaced pages.
ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES #4
SHORT ESSAY

**Short essays**—The two short essays should each be about two to three pages of doubled spaced typing and should cover your own impressions about German culture, lifestyle, environment, or other aspects of Germany as you experienced it. **You should write two essays on different topics.** Please be factual in your essays and do not generalize. For instance, while some Germans can be rude, not all are. Give specific examples to substantiate your viewpoints. Try to apply your topic to how things might be similar or different in the United States where you live.

ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES #5
PARTICIPATION

Guidelines for participation are basically common sense.

Please be on time for all meetings and field visits. This is especially important when there is a train to catch.

Please be courteous at all field visits and do not hesitate to ask questions.

Please read all assigned chapters and be prepared to contribute to group discussions and lectures.

Try to be culturally sensitive to the best of your knowledge. Some faux pas’ may occur, by both the host country and visitors. But since we are the visitors, we have a greater responsibility not to offend our hosts.

Finally, be courteous and considerate of your fellow students. You may feel like the entire experience is overwhelming at times, but try to keep things in perspective. The course is relatively short, and you will survive. Getting along with fellow participants will only enrich the entire experience.
The purpose of this exercise is to familiarize you with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. There are 30 articles in the UDHR, with most of those articles being only one or two sentences long.

Read the UDHR, which is in the appendix of your assigned book.

For this assignment, we will spend an entire day exploring Munich. The program provides you with a local transportation ticket, which allows unlimited travel within the central part of Munich.

We will use local transportation and our own feet to look around to see whether you believe the community of Munich is a community that meets many of the human rights contained within the UDHR. Some of the articles in the UDHR will not be relevant to this exercise. However, many of them will be.

Even if you cannot speak German, you should be able to analyze some of the human rights contained in the UDHR and apply them to the community around you. For instance, does it appear that the people in Munich have freedom of movement and residence without interference by the German government (art. 13)?

You can certainly use your own experiences and background in determining whether you feel the community of Munich enjoys a particular human right. For instance, if you look around the main train station, do you see all types of newspapers, magazines and books? Are any in English? Does there appear to be any restriction on the sale of these publications?

Don’t worry if you cannot determine each human right mentioned in the UDHR. Some of those rights require more information than simply that gained from walking or traveling around areas of Munich.

The day following this exercise, we will discuss your impressions.