

UGC
SPONSORED
FOUNDATION COURSE
ON
HUMAN RIGHTS

MUGBERIA GANGADHAR MAHAVIDYALAYA

Human rights are "commonly understood as inalienable fundamental rights to which a person is inherently entitled simply because she or he is a human being." Human rights are thus conceived as universal (applicable everywhere) and egalitarian (the same for everyone). These rights may exist as natural rights or as legal rights, in local, regional, national, and international law. The doctrine of human rights in international practice, within international law, global and regional institutions, in the policies of states and in the activities of non-governmental organizations, has been a cornerstone of public policy around the world. *The idea of human rights* states, "if the public discourse of peacetime global society can be said to have a common moral language, it is that of human rights." Despite this, the strong claims made by the doctrine of human rights continue to provoke considerable skepticism and debates about the content, nature and justifications of human rights to this day. Indeed, the question of what is meant by a "right" is itself controversial and the subject of continued philosophical debate.

Many of the basic ideas that animated the human rights movement developed in the aftermath of the Second World War and the atrocities of The Holocaust, culminating in the adoption of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* in Paris by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. The ancient world did not possess the concept of universal human rights.^[5] The true forerunner of human rights discourse was the concept of natural rights which appeared as part of the medieval Natural law tradition that became prominent during the Enlightenment with such philosophers as John Locke, Francis Hutcheson, and Jean-Jacques Burlamaqui, and featured prominently in the political discourse of the American Revolution and the French Revolution.

With the help of UGC sponsored Foundation Course on Human Rights we would like to inform and spread awareness among all students of our college and participants about the human rights. Article 1 of the Charter states that one of the aims of the United Nations is to achieve international co-operation in 'promoting and encouraging respect for human rights

and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.’ In this seminar who will participate, to them people at all levels in development and in all strata of society learn respect for the dignity of others and the means and methods of ensuring that respect in all societies.

General Assembly Resolution 49/184 of 23 December 1994 proclaims the ten-year period beginning on 1 January 1995 the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education. The resolution states that “human rights education should involve more than the provision of information and should constitute a comprehensive life-long process by which people at all levels in development and in all strata of society learn respect for the dignity of others and the means and methods of ensuring that respect in all societies.” Human rights are “commonly understood as inalienable fundamental rights to which a person is inherently entitled simply because she or he is a human being.” Human rights are thus conceived as universal (applicable everywhere) and egalitarian (the same for everyone). These rights may exist as natural rights or as legal rights, in local, regional, national, and international law. The doctrine of human rights in international practice, within international law, global and regional institutions, in the policies of states and in the activities of non-governmental organizations, has been a cornerstone of public policy around the world. *The idea of human rights* states, “if the public discourse of peacetime global society can be said to have a common moral language, it is that of human rights.” Despite this, the strong claims made by the doctrine of human rights continue to provoke considerable skepticism and debates about the content, nature and justifications of human rights to this day. Indeed, the question of what is meant by a “right” is itself controversial and the subject of continued philosophical debate.

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The philosophy of human rights attempts to examine the underlying basis of the concept of human rights and critically looks at its content and justification. Several theoretical approaches have been advanced to explain how and why human rights have become a part of social expectations.

One of the oldest Western philosophies of human rights is that they are a product of a natural law, stemming from different philosophical or religious grounds. Other theories hold that human rights codify moral behavior which is a human social product developed by a process of biological and social evolution (associated with Hume). Human rights are also described as a sociological pattern of rule setting (as in the sociological theory of law and the work of Weber). These approaches include the notion that individuals in a society accept rules from legitimate authority in exchange for security and economic advantage (as in Rawls) – a social contract. The two theories that dominate contemporary human rights discussion are the interest theory and the will theory. Interest theory argues that the principal function of human rights is to protect and promote certain essential human interests, while will theory attempts to establish the validity of human rights based on the unique human capacity for freedom.

UGC sponsored Foundation Course on Human Rights started its journey November, 2014. This course is coordinated by Dr. Siddhartha Chatterjee. This course included distinguished faculty like Prof. Jonaki Biswas (Associate Professor in Political Science), Dr. Prasenjit Ghosh (Associate Professor in History), Dr. Manoranjan Das (Assistant Professor in Sanskrit), Prof. Alok Ranjan Khatua (Assistant Professor in Philosophy), Dr. Pintu Roy Chowdhury (Assistant Professor in Bengali), Prof. Jyoti Mitra (Assistant Professor in Political Science) and many more. In the session 2016-17 there were 50 students and among them there were 44 female and 06 male students. This course has five major areas - Perspectives and Foundations of Human Rights, Human Rights of Socially and Economically Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Groups, Human Rights of Socially and Economically Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Groups, Human Rights: Ethical Consideration, PRACTICAL PAPER.

Course Coordinator: Dr. Siddhartha Chatterjee

Members of Board of Studies:-

1. Dr. Swapan Kumar Misra (Chairman)
2. Dr. Siddhartha Chatterjee (Coordinator)
3. Prof. Jonaki Biswas. (Associate Professor in Political Science)
4. Prof. Prasenjit Ghosh. (Associate Professor in History)
5. Prof. Alok Ranjan Khatua (Assistant Professor in Philosophy)

6. Dr. Manoranjan Das (Assistant Professor in Sanskrit)
7. Dr. Pintu Roy Chowdhury (Assistant Professor in Bengali)

Course Duration: 3 months

Number of seats: 50

Class Days	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	Saturday
Class Timing	5pm - 7pm	4pm - 6pm

Certificate : Certificate by Mugberia Gangadhar Mahavidyalaya after successful completion of the course

Eligibility: 1st Year Under Graduates and above in any Discipline

Note: Students will be awarded additional credits that will be shown in the credit and grade sheets issued by Controller of Examinations of the College, as per College rule.

Application Procedure

Admission Commences from 1st August, 2018, on First Come First Served Basis

For application forms and admission related information, contact Dr. Siddhartha Chatterjee (Coordinator)

Application forms may be downloaded from the website and completed application form (along with two passport sized photographs and self attested photocopy of the mark sheet of the qualifying examination) is to be submitted to Dr. Siddhartha Chatterjee by paying a registration fee of Rs. 20/-. Eligible candidates may get direct admission subject to the fulfilment of norms of norms.

The syllabus

Course I

Perspectives and Foundations of Human Rights

I) Basic Concept

- a) Human Values- Dignity , Liberty, Equality , Justice, Unity in Diversity, Ethics and Morals
- b) Meaning, Concept and significance of Human Rights Education

II) Perspectives of Rights and Duties

- a) Notion and Classification of Rights : Natural, Moral and Legal Rights, Three Generations of Human Rights (Civil and Political Rights; Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Collective/Solidarity Rights)
- b) Nature and concept of Duties
- c) Interrelationship of Rights and Duties

III) Introduction to Terminology of Various Legal Instruments

- a) Meaning of Legal Instrument- Binding Nature
- b) Types of Instruments: Covenant-Charter-Declaration-Treaty-Convention-Protocol-Executive Orders and Statutes

IV) United Nations And Human Rights

- a) Brief History of Human Rights- International and National Perspectives
- b) Provision of the charters of United Nations
- c) Universal Declaration of Human Rights- Significance-Preamble
- d) Civil and Political Rights-(Art. 1-21)
- e) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights-(Art.22-28)
- f) Duties and Limitations-(Art. 29)
- g) Final Provision (Art. 30)

Readings List

1. Amartya Sen, *The Idea Justice*, New Delhi: Penguin Books, 2009.
2. Conor Grealy and Adam Tomkins (Eds). *Understanding HumanRights*, London: Manshell, 1996.
3. David Beetham, *Politics and Human Rights*, Oxford: Blackwell, 1995
4. Gurpreet Mahajan Ed., *Democracy, Difference and Social Justice*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1998.
5. James Nickel, *Making Sense of Human Rights: Philosophical Reflections on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, Berkeley:University of California Press, 1987.
6. John Rawls, *Law of the People*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001.
7. Michael Freedden, *Rights*, Delhi: World View, 1998(Indian Reprint)
8. Michael Freeman, *Human Rights: An Interdisciplinary Approach*, Oxford: Polity, 2002.
9. R.J. Vincent, *Human Rights and International Relations*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986.
10. Ronald Dworkin, *Taking Rights Seriously*, London: Duckworth, 1978
11. SAHRDC, *Human Rights and Humanitarian Law*, New Delhi: South Asian Human Rights Documentation Centre, 2002
12. Stephen Shute and Susan Herley (Eds), *On Human Rights*, New York: Basic Books, 1993

Course II

Human Rights of Socially and Economically Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Groups

I) General Introduction

- a) Social Hierarchy and social prejudices and exploitation
- b) Socially approved racial and communal discrimination
- c) Meaning and Concept of Vulnerable and Disadvantaged
- d) Groups, Customary, Socio-Economic and Cultural Problems of Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Groups

II) Social status of women and children in International and national perspective

- a) Human Rights and Women's Rights –International and National Standards
- b) Human Rights of Children-International and National Standards

III) Status of Social and Economically Disadvantaged people

- a) Status of Indigenous People and the Role of the UN
- b) Status of SC/ST and Other Indigenous People in the Indian Scenario
- c) Human Rights of Aged and Disabled
- d) The Minorities and Human Rights

IV) Human rights of vulnerable groups

- a) Stateless Persons
- b) Sex Workers
- c) Migrant Workers
- d) HIV/AIDS Victims

Reading List

1. D.C. Nanjunda, *Child Labour and Human Rights: A Prospective*, Delhi: Kalpaz Pub., 2008.
2. S.N. Chaudhary, *Human Rights and Poverty in India: Theoretical Issues*, Delhi: Concepts, 2005.
3. R. Ganga, *Children's Rights as basic Human Rights*, New Delhi: Reference Press, 2007.
4. Saksena Anu, *Gender and Human Rights: Status of Women Workers in India*, Delhi: Shipra Publications, 2004.
5. Gurusamy, S., *Human Rights and Gender Justice*, New Delhi: APH, 2009.
6. A.K. Jha, *Child Abuse and Human Rights*, N.D.: Anmol, 2006.
7. D.V. Rao, *Child Rights: A Perspective on International and National Law*, New Delhi: Manak, 2004.
8. A.K. Jha, , *Child Abuse and Human Rights*, N.D.: Anmol, 2006.
9. V.V. Devasia, *Women, Social Justice and Human Rights*, New Delhi: APH, 2009.
10. Jhon K. Thomas, *Human Rights of Tribals*, Delhi: ISha Books, 2005.
11. Thiagaraj, *Human Rights from the Dalit Perspective*, New Delhi: Gyan Publishing, 2007
12. B.R. Sharma, *Encyclopaedia of Human Rights and Women's Development*, New Delhi: Sarup & sons, 2002.

Course III

Human Rights and Duties in India: Law, Policy, Society and Enforcement

Mechanism

I. Human Rights in Indian Context

- a) Indian Bill of Rights And Sarvodaya
- b) Preamble- Fundamental Rights- Directive Principles-Fundamental Duties

II. Human Rights- Enforcement Mechanism

- a) Human Rights Act, 1993
- b) Judicial Organs- Supreme Court (Art 32) And High Courts(Art 226)
- c) Human Rights Commission- National and State of Maharashtra
- d) Commission of Women, children, Minority, SC/ST
- e) Survey of International Mechanism

III. Human Rights Violations and Indian Polity

- a) Inequalities in society-population-illiteracy-poverty-caste-inaccessibility of legal redress
- b) Abuse of Executive Power-Corruption-Nepotism and favoritism
- c) Human Rights and Good Governance

IV. Role of Advocacy Groups

- a) Professional Bodies: Press, Media, Role of Lawyers-Legal Aid

- b) Educational Institutions
- c) Role of Corporate Sector
- d) NGO's

Reading List

1. B.P. Singh, *Human Rights in India: Problems and Perspectives*, New Delhi: Deep & Deep, 2008.
2. Aftab Alam, *Human Rights in India: Issues and Challenges*, Delhi: Raj Publications, 2004.
3. Shanker Sen, *Tryst with Law Enforcement and Human Rights: four decades in Indian Police*, New Delhi: APH, 2009.
4. Harsh Bhanwar, *Human Rights Law in India: Protection and Implementation of the Human Rights*, New Delhi: Regal Pub., 2008.
5. Jaiswal Jaishree, *Human Rights of accused and juveniles: Delinquent in conflict and Law*, Delhi: Kalpaz: 2005.
6. L.K. Thakur, *Essentials of POTO and other Human Rights Laws*, New Delhi: Author Press, 2002.
7. Awasthi , S.K. & R.P. Kataria, *Law Relating to Protection of Human Right*, New Delhi :Orient Publishing, 2002.
8. South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre (SAHRDC), *Handbook of Human Rights and Criminal Justice in India: the System and Procedure*, New Delhi: OUP, 2006.
9. Noorjahan Bava, *Human Rights and Criminal Justice Administration in India*, New Delhi: Uppal, 2000.
10. K.P. Saksena, (ed.), *Human Rights and the Constitution: Vision and the Reality*, New Delhi: Gyan Publishing, 2003

Course IV

Human Rights: Ethical Consideration

- I) Ethical arguments for Human Rights
- II) Ethical Movement for Human Rights
- III) The moral and ethical value of Human life
- IV) Intrinsic value of Human Rights

Course V

PRACTICAL PAPER

The practical paper will comprise of (i) Assessment of a project of 50 marks & (ii) One viva voce examination of 50 marks. Each participant will be required to submit a report after visiting Organizations/Institutions/fields involved in human rights issues.

Written Test

Here are some glimpses of our course:



When our Principal Sir Dr. Swapan Kumar Misra addresses to our students in opening ceremony of this course



Prof. Jonaki Biswas (Associate Professor in Political Science and HOD) taking her class.



Dr. Prasenjit Ghosh (Associate Professor in History and HOD) taking his class on casteism



Dr. Manoranjan Das (Assistant Professor and HOD in Sanskrit) taking his class.



Prof. Jyoti Mitra (Assistant Professor in Political Science) taking his class.



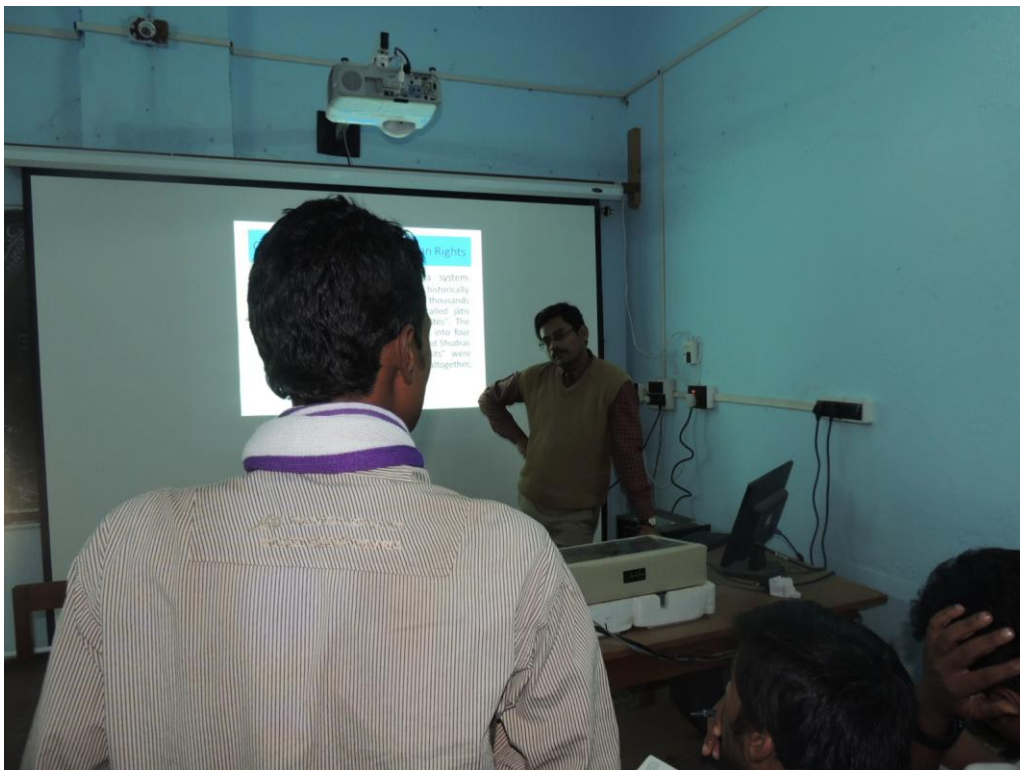
Prof. Alok Ranjan Khatua (Assistant Professor in Philosophy) taking his class.



Dr. Pintu Roy Chowdhury (Assistant Professor in Bengali) taking his class



Dr. Siddhartha Chatterjee (Coordinator of this Course) taking his class



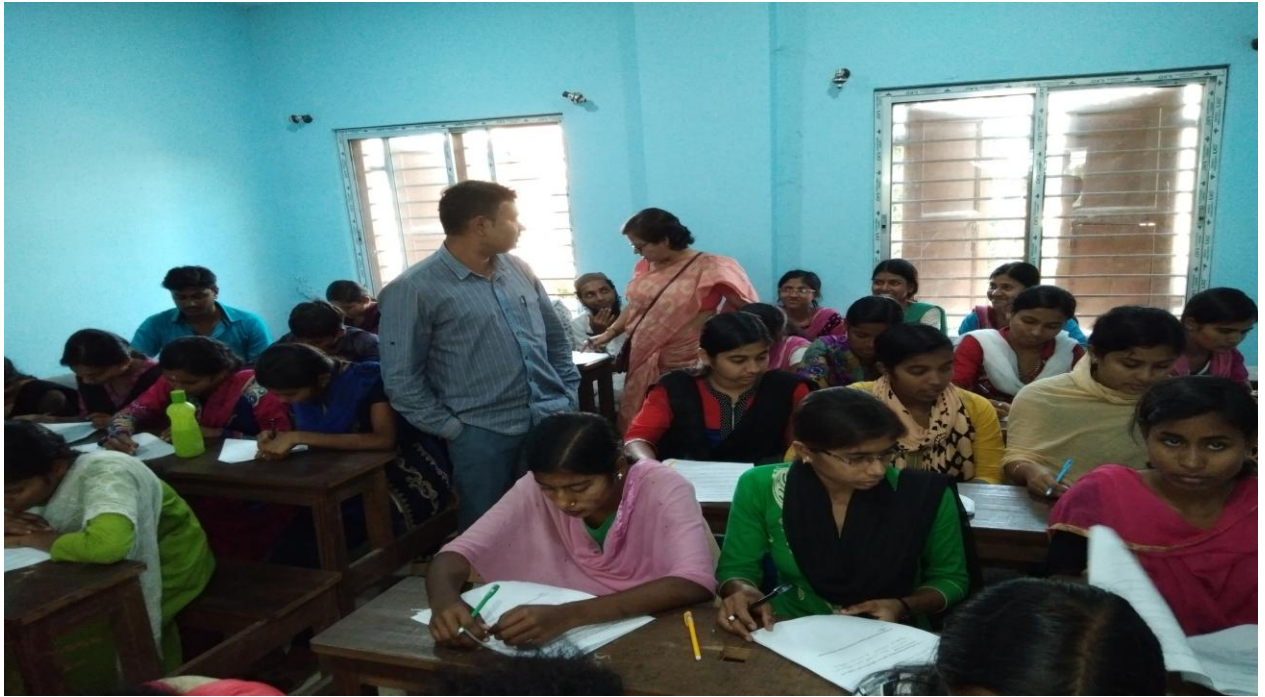
Students are asking questions to the teacher



Students are watching Human Rights related programme



When teachers are playing a role as invigilator at exam time



When teachers are playing a role as invigilator at exam time



When our Principal Sir felicitates (with a book, certificate and a folder) a student who secured first position in this course



A street drama on Stop Domestic Violence organised jointly by UGC Sponsored Foundation Course on Human Rights and Women Cell of Mugberia Gangadhar Mahavidyalaya

UGC sponsored Foundation Course on Human Rights envisages to teach the students and make them aware of the rights, their duties and the consequences one will have to face on failing to abide by them.

The program helps in knowing the ways and means for protecting human rights under situations at the time of any unjust act is committed on individuals by police, army, government, companies, individuals, court actions and so on. Candidates are assisted in polishing their skills in maintaining patience, analyzing and interpreting the situations with efficiency in order to avoid any kind of discrepancy. The work of a human right personnel is that of an extremely challenging one, which makes it necessary for applicants to possess the maturity to handle the situation and cases with patience and intelligence.

The curriculum comprises of theory which covers all the major aspects of human rights from entrusting the knowledge of fundamental rights, duties, directive principles, UN declaration of rights for the child, women, displaced individuals and old people thus making them proficient in their field. The course proves to build a strong base for individuals who wish to undertake higher degree and research program in the field. Aspirants who wish to serve the society and make the general public aware of their rights can perform extremely well in this program.