



St. Xavier's College – Autonomous
Mumbai
Syllabus
For 3rd Semester Foundational
Course in the Second year of
BA/B.SC/B.SC.IT/BMM/BMS
(June 2011 onwards)

Semester 3: Foundation Course

Course: HUMAN RIGHTS

Objectives

- To familiarize the students with the philosophy and the concept of Human Rights.
- To create an understanding of the various systems and provisions that can foster Human Rights.
- To sensitize students to the diverse Human Rights issues in terms of their complex nature.

Total Number of Lectures: 45 lectures in three units

Unit One (10 Lectures)

Contextualizing Human Rights

- Meaning and Characteristics
- Origin and development of the discourse
- Changing philosophies

(Handouts to be given to the students on the history of the development of human rights as a concept and practice)

Unit Two (23 Lectures)

Issues and Vulnerable Groups

This module will be analysed at the macro and micro dimensions in terms of the significance of the issues and their relevance to the meaning and characteristics of human rights.

Women, children, minorities (ethnic, linguistic and religious), sexual minorities, refugees, victims of state-sponsored violence, prisoners of conscience, displaced communities, prisoners and under trials, abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, HIV/AIDS patients, Dalits, Tribals, senior citizens, differently-abled persons and the rights of consumers.

Unit Three (12 Lectures)

Monitoring and Safeguarding Mechanisms

This unit looks at monitoring and safeguarding mechanisms both at the international and national (Indian) levels.

- The Indian Context
 - a) Legal Framework
 - b) NHRC
 - c) Repressive Laws
- International Mechanisms: Conventions, treaties and global bodies
- Role of Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organisations.
- Freedom of expression and the media.

References:

- Ackerly, B., A. (2008). Universal human rights in a world of difference. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- Avonius, L. D. K. (2008). Human rights in Asia: a reassessment of the Asian values debate. Hampshire, UK, Palgrave Macmillan Ltd.
- Christie, K. D. R. (2001). The politics of human rights in East Asia. London, Pluto Press.
- Heard, A. (1997). Human Rights: Chimeras in Sheep's Clothing? <http://www.sfu.ca/~aheard/intro.html>, accessed on January 1, 2011.
- Makau, M. (2002). Human Rights: A Political and Cultural Critique. Pennsylvania, University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Nirmal, C. J., Ed. (2000). Human Rights in India. New Delhi, Oxford University Press.
- O'Byrne, D., J. (2003). Human rights: an introduction. New Delhi, Pearson.
- Pereira, W. (1997). Inhuman Rights. New Delhi, Other India Press.
- Phillips, D., A. (2009). Human Rights. New York, Chelsea House: An Imprint of Infobase Publishing.
- Poonacha, V. (1995). Gender within the Human Rights Discourse. Mumbai, Research Centre for Women Studies, SNDT University.
- Raman, K. (1998). Universality of the Human Rights Discourse: An Overview. Mumbai, Department of Civics and Politics, University of Mumbai.
- Sen, A. (1997) Human Rights and Asian Values. Sixteenth Morgenthau Memorial Lecture on Ethics & Foreign Policy . New York, Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs. http://www.carnegiecouncil.org/resources/publications/morgenthau/254.html/_res/id=sa_File1/254_sen.pdf, accessed on January 1, 2011.
- Shabbir, M., Ed. (2008). Human Rights in the 21st Century: Challenges Ahead. Jaipur & New Delhi, Rawat Publications.

CIA 1: Case Studies

CIA 2: Group projects and presentations primarily from Units Two and Three.

Question Paper Pattern:

All questions are compulsory.

There is internal choice in each question.

Each question will carry 15 marks.

Each question will have a) and b) components, the student can choose either a) or b).

Question 1 a) and b) will be from Unit 1

Question 2 a) and b) will be from Unit 2

Question 3 a) and b) will be from Unit 3

Question 4 a) and b) will be from Unit 2 & 3.

DOCUMENTARIES:

1. The assassination of Abraham Lincoln
2. Genocide
3. India Untouched
4. Manufacturing consent
5. pbs america at cross roads