

UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA

CBCS SYLLABUS

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Human Rights

**THREE-YEAR B.A.
GENERAL
DEGREE COURSE OF STUDIES**



HUMAN RIGHTS - GENERAL COURSE

Semester 1

HR-G-CC/GE -1-1 -TH Introduction to Human Rights: Jurisprudence, Norms, Standards and Mechanisms **4**

- A. HUMAN RIGHTS AND DUTIES: JURISPRUDENCE
 - i) Philosophical and historical foundation of human rights and duties
 - ii) Theories of rights
 - iii) Concept and classifications of human rights and duties
 - iv) Human rights and duties
 - (a) Correlation of rights and duties/responsibilities
 - (b) Tensions between rights inter se, duties inter se, and rights and duties
 - v) Importance of internalizing human rights and duties:
 - vi) Urgent need for not only sensitizing others of human rights and duties, but of practicing oneself those values: self-inculcation, endeavour to live up to those ideals - Duty to respect others' rights, respect each other's human dignity.

- B. INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS: NORMS, STANDARDS AND MECHANISMS
 - i) Evolution of human rights and duties on the international plane
 - ii) The United Nations Charter and the development of human rights Provisions of the Charter, Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966 and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1966, and other major UN instruments on human rights (Conventions on Racial Discrimination, Women's Rights, Rights of the Child, Torture)

HR-G-CC/GE- 1-1-P ... Practical on any chosen topic from HR-G-CC/GE -1-1 -TH 2

AECC 1. English Communication **2**

Semester 2

HR-G-CC/GE -2-2 -TH Promotion of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

- A. UNITED NATIONS FOR PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS AND MECHANISMS **4**
 - i) UN bodies involved in promotion of human rights - Economic and Social Council, UN Commission on Human Rights and its sub-commissions on women, minorities, etc., General Assembly, Human Rights Committee and other committees under the various conventions, ILO, UNESCO, WHO, FAO.
 - ii) European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights 1950 and institutions
 - iii) Latin American standards and mechanisms for protection of human rights
 - iv) African standards and mechanisms for protection of human rights
 - v) ASEAN Declaration of Human Rights

- B. INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

- i) Evolution of IHL since the mid-nineteenth century: IHL conventions 1864, 1899 1907, 1929, and 1949, 1977 Geneva Protocols II & I.
- ii) Basic principles: humanity, protection of civilians and civilian objects, humane treatment of prisoners and civilians under custody, prohibition of use of weapons and methods of warfare, causing superfluous injury and unnecessary suffering, prohibition of widespread, long-term and severe damage to natural environment.
- iii) Indian Geneva Conventions Act 1949: Indian Red Cross Society
- iv) The role of International Committee of Red Cross

HR-G-CC/GE -2- 2- P Practical on any chosen topic from HR-G-CC/GE -2-2 -TH 2

AECC 2: Environmental Science

2

Semester 3

HR-G-CC/GE -3- 3- TH Refugee Law and Specially Disadvantaged Sections of Society in India

4

- A. INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE LAW
 - i) Problem of refugees and displaced persons through the ages
 - ii) The United Nations and the refugee problem
 - iii) Refugee Convention 1951, Protocol 1967, Convention on the Stateless Persons 1951 - The core issues of the 'right' to seek and receive asylum, right of nonrefoulement (non-return)
 - iv) Role of UN High Commissioner for Refugees
- B. HUMAN RIGHTS OF SPECIALLY DISADVANTAGED SECTIONS OF SOCIETY IN INDIA
 - i) Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes
 - ii) Minorities
 - iii) Women and Children
 - iv) Disabled Individuals
 - v) The Elderly, 'Aged', Aging and Human Rights

HR-G-CC/GE -3- 3- P Practical on any chosen topic from Core – HR-G-CC/GE -3- 3- TH 2

HR-G-SEC-A-3-1 Development, International Trade and Human Rights 2

- i) Right to development: Issues of international equity and justice, equitable sharing of sharable resources and common amenities, equitable access to benefits of science and technology
- ii) Freedom of international trade, most-favoured nation treatment (equality of treatment) versus special treatment of the developing countries, access to international markets, equitable pricing of raw materials

Semester 4

HR-G-CC/GE -4-4- TH Emerging Dimensions of Human Rights and Evolution of the Concept of Human Rights and Duties in India 4

- A. EMERGING DIMENSIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS
- i) National Sovereignty versus 'international enforcement' of human rights, International
 - ii) politics of human rights and selective application of international sanctions, Unilateral use of coercion and implementation of human rights
 - iii) Human rights, and science and technology
 - iv) Human rights violations by non-state entities such as corporations, other business entities, terrorists and other armed groups, militant religious groups, professional groups (doctors, lawyers, etc.)
 - v) New rights: right to a future and rights of future generations, rights to peace (and disarmament), rights to clean environment
- B. EVOLUTION OF THE CONCEPT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DUTIES IN INDIA
- i) Evolution of the composite culture of India, contribution of diverse religions
 - ii) Concepts of human welfare, rights and duties, totality of the cosmology of universe with human beings as its intrinsic part
 - iii) Human rights and duties in contemporary India: Law, politics and society
 - iv) Social movements of the 19th and 20th centuries, independence movement, Gandhi, Nehru, Ambedkar etc.
 - v) Making of the Constitution

HR-G-CC/GE -4-4- P Practical on any chosen topic from HR-G-CC/GE -4-4- TH 2

HR-G-SEC-B-4 -1 Societal Problems of Human Rights in India 2

- i) Core problems: poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, socio-cultural-religious practices resulting in grave human rights deprivations
- ii) Domestic Violence and intimate Partner's violence
- iii) corruption
- iv) terrorism
- v) Labour welfare legislation in India
- vi) Problems of bonded labour, exploitation of child labour, female labour and
- vii) unorganized labour
- viii) Communal and caste conflicts and tensions
- ix) violence against women and children, both inside and outside homes
- x) Custodial violence

Semester 5

HR-G-DSE-A-5-1-TH Human Rights and Duties in India: Normative Framework, Constitution and Statutory Mechanisms 4

- A. NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DUTIES IN INDIA