Course Title: Human Rights and the Family

Course Number: HR 5110-490

Course Description:
This course, Human Rights and the Family, analyses, debates and conceptualizes the paradoxes presented in the issues of culture, gender and the universal notions of Human Rights. The course illustrates the vast interpretations of several key issues relating to differences and similarities of cultural codes. Cultures across the globe have always sanctioned methods of maintaining the dignity and integration of humans and community through different methods of moral and legal institutions. Hence, the international community perceived the need to collectively endorse the universality of Human Rights, Women’s Human Rights and the Child Rights Charter as a means of protecting individuals. Accepting Human Rights as International Law and the upper moral standard provided tension in the discussion of cultural, and gender issues. Therefore it is important to discuss the similarities and differences among cultures that, in return, highlight dilemmas which human rights organizations and strategists face while dealing with issues related to family, religion and geographic localities.

Course Dates:
November 1 – December 31, 2011
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: October 3, 2011

Site Director:
This is a three-credit hour online course. Please see your local Site Director or e-mail our online site coordinator at aponline@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Janette Habashi, Ph.D
Mailing Address: University of Oklahoma
Schusterman Center
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Telephone Number: (918) 660-3365
E-mail Address: jhabashi@ou.edu
Virtual Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm CST
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students during the above listed Virtual Office Hours and other methods by arrangement.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Student materials are available at the Follett/AP Bookstore located in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at www.oklahomaunion.bkstr.com or by telephone at 866-369-9713 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-5960 (outside the U.S.). E-mail orders may be sent to oklahomaunion@bkstr.com. Representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST on Friday. Summer hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST. Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day to 866-223-5607 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-1557 (outside the U.S.).


03 Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system:
   1. Access D2L at [http://learn.ou.edu](http://learn.ou.edu)
   2. Enter OU NetID (4+4) and password.
   3. Select course and access material.

04 Materials posted on the Electronic Reserve system:
   1. Access the OU Electronic Reserves Page at [http://libraries.ou.edu/eresources/reserves/](http://libraries.ou.edu/eresources/reserves/)
   2. Enter OU NetID (4x4) and password.
   3. Select course and access material.

If the student has not used these services before, contact the Site Director for assistance.

Note: The Follett/AP Bookstore is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through the Follett/AP Bookstore.

**OU E-Mail:**
All official correspondence from distance learning instructors will be sent only to students’ ou.edu address.

**Online Learning Resource Center:**
The Online Learning Resource Center of the University of Oklahoma’s College of Arts and Sciences Online Program is here to serve you and assist you with any questions, problems, or concerns you may have. For assistance go to [http://casweb.ou.edu/olr/](http://casweb.ou.edu/olr/) or contact us by telephone at: (405) 325-5854 or Email: casonline@ou.edu

**Course Objectives:**
This course adopts a seminar format for graduate students; it is expected that the student will be involved in reading the material carefully and be able to engage in discussion while demonstrating critical thinking and interest in the subject matter. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Debate international declarations of Human Rights, Women’s Human Rights and Children’s Rights
- Conceptualize alternatives to Human Rights initiatives created by different countries/religions.
- Analyze the moral discussion and its relationship to family and individual policies
- Debate the cultural relativism discourse in Human Rights
- Conceptualize the new face of Human Rights

**Course Outline:**
This course is delivered completely online. Assignments and activities will be listed on the course website and will be facilitated via the Desire2Learn course management system. Hence, in order to successfully learn you need to engage online and offline and share your experiences and reading reflections with the class. The discussion board will assist in the participation in our cyber classroom. In addition, every individual must interview an activist or an advocate besides reviewing a documentary movie in this area. Everyone will share these experiences with the class. The course website will provide a Drop Box for you to deposit the paper assignments.
Assignments, Grading, and Due Dates:

Reserved Readings:
The following readings are on electronic reserve with the OU library
Online research resources:
- Amnesty International homepage
- United Nations homepage
- U.S. State Department Country Reports on Human Rights/
- UN page for the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights
- UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- UN Human Development Report/
- http://www.state.gov/g/drl/hr/
- http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/un-orgs.htm
- http://www.peaceandhumanrights.org/
- http://www.childwatch.uio.no/
- http://www.crin.org/
- http://www.unhchr.ch/html/intlinst.htm#women/
- http://www.hrw.org/
- African - http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/instree/z1afchar.htm
- Arab - http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/instree/arabhrcharter.html
- Arab - http://www.m-a-t.org/sermon.htm
- South America - http://www.witnessforpeace.org/

Readings:
The required reading is divided into three themes. First is the actual reading of Human Rights declarations. Second, is the alternative readings that are constructed from other moral or political institutes. The third part of the readings is the case studies that illustrate the dilemmas of imposing/ implementing the universal Human Rights. Due to the significance of the issue, the reading is eclectic; a variety of reading materials will be held in the library reserve for you to copy. There are only two text books required for purchase. I will include a sheet outlining the weekly readings.

Assignments:
1. Discussion Board Participation: you will post your views and deconstruct the reading in a professional manner. Discussion policy is included in the syllabus. 30 points.

   Elements included in the evaluation of discussion board participation will include evidence of critical thinking, clear identification of the issue, understanding of the problems, and the ability to propose and evaluate solutions. All participants are expected to welcome open expression of opinion, attitudes and beliefs and to accept the legitimacy and value of dissent. In addition to respect for the ideas of your classmates and the instructor, common courtesy is also expected. There are 4 discussion points for every issue. However, 2 points are for the original response and 2 points are for the class discussion. You are expected to post your original response on the issue and another response to the class discussion.
2. Choose and view a documentary video on a human rights issue and discuss it on D2L. I will provide you with a list of suggested videos, but you are also welcome to suggest a movie and communicate with me about it before reviewing it. I highly recommend that the video pertains to your paper (written paper #2—see below). 

3. Interview an activist in the field of Human Rights. You need to interview an individual who works on a human rights issue via email. I encourage you to develop a rapport with an organization early in the course. If you start late your quality of work will be jeopardized. The issue/organization could be local and not necessarily international.

4. Written paper #1 utilizes information gained from the interview and the documentary and incorporates it with the Human Rights Articles and readings.

5. Written paper #2 (Final Paper) focuses on similarities and dilemmas of a human rights issue related to a specific location. In addition, you need to deconstruct it from the cultural relativity perspective and moral standard views. An outline will be provided separately.

**Quality of Written Work:**

All written reports must be typewritten and include references and bibliographies. All reports should follow the format described in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological association* (5th ed.). Every paper should be 3-5 pages. Each paper will include a title page, appropriate citations within the text of the paper and a reference page. The paper should be carefully researched, grammatically correct and neat in appearance. You will be penalized for poorly written papers and poorly presented oral reports. I highly recommend using the Writing Center Facility at OU- Tulsa.

Grading: This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F. Grades are based on total points, which are earned via objective and subjective scoring. A=90%, B=80%, C= 70%, D=60%.

Subjective criteria for evaluating your work will be quality of individual writing assignments, participation/quality in group papers, presentations, and discussions. Attendance and completion of work in a punctual manner are also part of the evaluation process.

Excellent Work: Writing demonstrates unusual competence; obvious analytical thinking with thoughtful evaluation; outstanding contributions to group presentations, papers and group discussions. Continuous and enthusiastic effort over the course of the class. Manifests initiative, meets all deadlines and due dates and no absences.

Good Work: Writing demonstrates competence; interpretive/inferential thinking, drawing conclusions, and reading between the lines; strong contribution to group presentations; active participation in group discussions, meets all due dates. Missed parts of classes.

Average Work: Individual writing is competent; literal thinking and mere regurgitation of readings; some contribution to group presentations and papers; occasionally contributes to group discussions. Meets all due dates. Missed classes.

Unsuccessful Work: Individual writing suggests or demonstrates incompetence. Little thought to developing ideas. Periodic contributions to group presentations, papers and discussions. Forgetfulness regarding assignments, due dates. Missed classes, arrived late or early exits.

NOTICE: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
Communications:
Communication will be accomplished via e-mail or telephone. Although, I answer e-mail regularly (and relatively quickly) throughout the week Monday-Friday 8:00-4:00 pm central time. I respond to it less frequently on the weekends and holidays. During those times, you can expect an answer to your e-mail within 24-48 hours. There will be times during the semester, when I do not have access to e-mail. I will be sure to notify students if such situations occur. In the event of a power outage or other technical problems, I will contact you by telephone at the number you provide to me on the first week of the semester. Similarly, if you have a computer or other technical problems, it is your responsibility to contact me using an alternative method, like the telephone, to notify me. If you are on campus and you would like to drop by my office please feel free to do so. As I am often away from the office, it is probably best to arrange a specific meeting time in advance. Please call or e-mail me to do so.

Course Policy:
Participation is important in any class because much of the learning comes from class discussion. In this course the main method of participation will be through the exchange of ideas and thoughts on the web. You are expected to post your ideas on the web regularly. You will be expected to read all materials as assigned submit assignments on time and participate in web discussion. If you do not participate in the discussion two (2) points will be deducted from your grade for each missed topic.

Discussion Board Policy:
Be considerate and appropriate when using the discussion board. It is neither a public forum nor a limited public forum. Your instructor has the right to remove any message for the purposes of saving space, focusing attention of students on relevant materials, and avoiding material inappropriate for the classroom. On this last note, with freedom comes responsibility. Please keep in mind, as you contribute to the discussion board, that not everyone comes from the same background, or shares the same values and ideals. Please be appropriate (professional) and considerate of others. If you have any questions on this matter, contact the instructor for clarification.

Late Work:
A late assignment will incur a penalty. If you miss class because of an emergency, please make arrangements with the professor. Two (2) points will be deducted from the total possible points for each day the assignment is late.

Religious Holidays Statement:
It is the policy of the University to excuse student absences resulting from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays.

Final Word:
I value each of you and do not want to lose any of you through confusion or misunderstandings. So please let me know what I can do to clarify my lectures or otherwise fill in missing holes in your perceptions of class room verbal exchanges or assignments. What do you need (other than a guaranteed A or B) to make our class worthwhile/ you have the final words!!!!!!!!!

Attendance Policy:
In addition to interaction via Desire2Learn and E-mail contact, students are required to contact the instructor via E-mail or telephone BEFORE the beginning of the course term for an initial briefing. Although physical class meetings are not part of this course, participation in all interactive, learning activities is required.

Student assignments and student/instructor communications will be conducted via Desire2Learn, although students may contact the instructor via telephone, postal mail, e-mail, or fax as needed.
**Incomplete Grade Policy:**
A grade of “I” is not automatically assigned, but rather must be requested by the student by submitting to the instructor a “Petition for and Work to Remove an Incompleted Grade” form. An “I” can never be used in lieu of an “F” nor can an “I” be assigned because of excessive failure to participate in class activities.

**Technical Support Information:**
If you experience technical problems, contact Information Technology by visiting their website at: http://webapps.ou.edu/it/ or contacting them by telephone at: (405) 325-HELP (4357).

**HR Website:**
The Department of Human Relations website is http://www.ou.edu/cas/hr

**Procedures for Completion of Course Evaluation:**
Upon completion of the course students should go to the Advanced Programs Distance Learning webpage, http://www.goou.ou.edu/distance_learn.html. Students should click on the applicable semester link under “Course Evaluations” which will direct them to the evaluation. The evaluation will take approximately five minutes to complete. Completion of the online evaluation is an important tool allowing Advanced Programs to gain information and student feedback for improvement of courses.

Your responses will be kept confidential. They will be reviewed by the department and only supplied to the professor once grades for the course have been submitted.

**Important information you should know about online courses:**
- To sign on to Desire2Learn (D2L), go to www.learn.ou.edu and log in using your 4+4 and your OU network password (note that this is the same 4+4 and password that you use to access your OU email). Once you are logged in, please look on the right-hand side for “My Courses,” locate your course and click on it. Remember to check your course site on D2L every day.

- Students enrolled in online courses may be required to take the CAS student orientation in Desire 2 Learn. To take the orientation, sign-on to D2L and then click on “Self Registration” at the top left corner of the page. Information about and instructions for the orientation can be found at http://casweb.ou.edu/olr/public/students/orientation.htm

- If the course is using a course website, you will find a link for the website on the first page of this syllabus. Please click on this link to start your course.

- Course Materials are available at Follett/AP Bookstore. On this syllabus you will find a link to the Follett Bookstore.

- If you need to drop or withdraw from a course, please contact your Site Director. You can drop a course without a penalty up to the add/drop date. You can drop a course after the add/drop date through the first day of class with a penalty.
  1) 16-29 days before start of class session 25% penalty
  2) Between 15 days before and the start of first class session 50% penalty
  3) On the first day of class 100% penalty

- After the class has started, you can only withdraw from the course with the professor’s permission; you will not receive a refund for your tuition. You can only drop without a penalty after the add/drop date by providing proper documentation and receiving approval from the Advanced Programs Theater Director. Provide this documentation to your Site Director.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Note: Attendance/absences do not apply to online courses. However, participation in all course activities is extremely important to student success in online courses.

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy.

Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

- cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the Student Code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

Please see OU website for details concerning OU Academic Honesty policy set forth by the Honor Council. www.ou.edu/honorcouncil.

Accommodation Statement

The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course.

Copyright

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA

Janette Habashi, Ph.D.

**Education**

Educational Psychology, PhD. Kent State University

**Current Positions**

Assistant Professor, Department of Human Relations, University of Oklahoma

**Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest**

- Social Science theories
- Qualitative research
- My research interest is children and indigenous discourse.

**Representative Publications and Presentations**

Representative Honors and Awards Received

- 2005-2006 Child on the Wing Rockefeller Foundation Resident Fellowships, Humanities and the Study of Culture Program, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA
- 2005-2006 Summer Fellowship, College of Arts and Science, University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma, USA
- 2005-2006 Presidential International Travel Fellowship Award, International Programs Center: University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma, USA
- 2005-2006 Nominated for outstanding dissertation award at the American Education Research Association- Social Context in Education (Division G), San Francisco, USA

Major Professional Affiliations

American Educational Research Association