RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS AND CONTEMPORARY HUMAN RIGHTS
A Proposed Syllabus

Primary Books

Tad Stahnke and J. Paul Martin, eds., Religion and Human Rights: Basic Documents, [BDHR].

Michael J. Perry, The Idea of Human Rights [IHR].

Natan Lerner, Religion, Beliefs, and International Human Rights [RBHR].

Abdullahi An-Na'im, ed., Proselytization and Communal Self-Determination in Africa [PCSA].


Brian Barry, Culture and Equality: An Egalitarian Critique of Multiculturalism [CE].

Joseph Runzo, Nancy M. Martin and Arvind Sharma, eds., Human Rights and Responsibilities in the World Religions [HRR].

Nicholas Wolterstorff, Justice: Rights and Wrongs [JRW].

Johannes Morsink, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Origins, Drafting, and Intent [JMUD].


Talal Asad, Formations of the Secular: Christianity, Islam, and Modernity [FS].

Abdullahi An-Na'im, Islam and the Secular State [ISS].

Elizabeth M. Bucar and Barbara Barnett, eds. Does Human Rights Need God? [HRNG].

Jyette Klausen, The Cartoons that Shook the World [CSW]

Part I: Contemporary Human Rights Language and the Status and Role of Religion


JMUD, ch. 1, "The Drafting Process Explained"; ch. 2, "World War II as Catalyst"; ch. 8, "Article 1, the Preamble and the Enlightenment."


Todd Landman, *Protecting Human Rights: A Comparative Study* [selections].


Response to the Declaration by Sumner Twiss in Frances S. Adeney and Arvind Sharma, eds., *Christianity and Human Rights: Influences and Issues*.


**FS**, chs. 3, 4, and 6.


**JRW** [selections].


**HRNG**, David Novak, "God and Human Rights in a Secular Society," ch. 3 in


**IsHR**, ch. 1, "Comparisons of Rights Across Cultures"; ch. 2, "International and Islamic Human Rights"; ch. 3, "International Human Rights: The Historical Background"; and ch. 9, "An Assessment of Islamic Human Rights Schemes."
Part II: Issues of Special Concern


RBHR, ch. 4, "Proselytism and Change of Religion."

IsHR, ch. 8, "Freedom of Religion in Islamic Human Rights Schemes."


Resolutions on "Defamation of Religion," UN Human Rights Council (on line).

CSW [selections]


IHR, ch. 5, "Discrimination against Women and Non-Muslims," and ch. 6, "Restrictions on the Rights and Freedoms of Women."


IshR ch. 7, "Islamic Human Rights Schemes and Non-Muslims."

RBHR, ch. 3, "Protecting Groups from Persecution and Incitement."

1. UDHR: Background, Elaboration, and Implementation
2. A New Declaration? Suggested Alterations and Some Responses from the World's Religions
3. "Religious Human Rights"
4. Philosophical and Theological Issues I
5. Philosophical and Theological Issues II
6. Religious Perspectives I: Christianity
7. Religious Perspectives: Judaism
8. Religious Perspectives II: Islam
9. Religious Freedom I
10. Religious Freedom II
11. Religion, Gender, and Rights
12. Rights of Minorities
13. Conclusion: Religion, Human Rights, and Foreign Policy

Alternative Religious Traditions

Religious Perspectives: Confucianism


HRR, Sumner B. Twiss, "Confucian Values and Human Rights," ch. 20.

HRNG, Anthony C. Yu, "Enduring Change: Confucianism and the Prospect of Human Rights," ch. 5.

Religious Perspectives: Buddhism


HRR, ch. 18, James Fredericks, "Buddhism and Human Rights: The Recent Discussion and Its Implications for Christianity."

Religious Perspectives: Hinduism


Arati Rao, "Speaking/Seeking a Common Language: Women, the Hindu Right, and Human Rights in India," and Julie Stone Peters, "Reply: Reconceptualizing the Relationships between Religion, Women,