

SPL 588: Human Rights and Social Policy



Instructor: Volkan Yılmaz
Spring 2019, Fridays btw. 10:00-13:00
@NFB 204
E-Mail: vyilmaz@boun.edu.tr
Office: KPARK, No: 119
Office hours: By appointment.

Course overview

This is a master's level social science course on human rights and social policy. The course is research-oriented and has a modular structure. The course starts with two lectures, which aim at introducing participants to the foundations of and contemporary debates around the human rights approach. Starting with the third lecture, the course brings together information sessions on different topics with respect to human rights and social policy (such as the international human rights regime, justiciability of social rights, measuring discrimination and the influence of the politics of human rights on social policy) and practice sessions where participants are expected to carry out small-scale research projects that they will apply the human rights framework to diverse topics within the social policy domain. Upon completing the course, participants are expected to understand the fundamentals of the human rights approach, its contemporary relevance, the international and national institutional framework within which it is embedded and its applicability in social policy research. Participants are also expected to develop skills in applying the human rights framework to real-world problems and present their analysis in oral and written scientific forms.

Requirements

All participants are expected to read the assigned articles and book chapters in advance and actively participate in class discussions (%10), deliver two 30-min small-scale research presentations (%60) and submit a final paper based on the analysis of one small-scale research (%30) at the end of the term. Average expected length of papers will be 3000 words. (**Deadline:** 7 June 2020)

Grading scale: 90-100: AA; 80-89 BA; 75-79 BB; 70-74 CB; 65-69 CC; 60-64 DC; 55-59 DD; 50-54 F; 49-0

Reading List

Feb 7	Introduction
Feb 14	<p>Human rights principles I: universality and inalienability; accountability, transparency and rule of law</p> <p>Universal Declaration of Human Rights</p> <p>Guillermo O'Donnell, "The quality of democracy: Why the rule of law matters." <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 15, no. 4 (2004): 32-46.</p> <p>Jack Donnelly, "The relative universality of human rights." <i>Human rights quarterly</i> (2007): 281-306.</p>
Feb 21	<p>Human rights principles II: Indivisibility; interdependence and interrelatedness</p> <p>Martha C. Nussbaum, "Capabilities and human rights", <i>Fordham L. Rev.</i>, 66, 2, 1997, pp. 273-300.</p> <p>Amartya Sen, "Human rights and capabilities", <i>Journal of Human Development</i>, 6, 2, 2005, pp. 151-166.</p>
Feb 28	<p>A rights-based approach to social policy</p> <p>Pierre Laroque, "Human rights, social work and social policy", <i>International Social Work</i>, 12, 3, 1969, pp. 3-13</p> <p>Shirley Gatenio Gabel, <i>A Rights-Based Approach to Social Policy Analysis</i>, New York: Springer, 2015, pp. 1-10</p>
Mar 6	Presentations of the analysis of one selected social policy program from human rights-based approach I
Mar 13	Presentations of the analysis of one selected social policy program from human rights-based approach II
Mar 20	<p>The justiciability of social rights: national and international mechanisms</p> <p>International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</p> <p>Paul O'Connell. <i>Vindicating Socio-economic Rights: International Standards and Comparative Experiences</i>, Oxon: Routledge, 2012, pp. 1-17</p> <p>Jeff King, <i>Judging Social Rights</i>, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012, pp. 17-58</p>

Mar 27	Presentations on the role of international human rights regime in the protection of social rights <i>or</i> on the role of courts in the protection of social rights
Apr 3	<p>Human rights principles III: Equality and non-discrimination</p> <p>Fred L. Pincus, "Discrimination comes in many forms: Individual, institutional, and structural", <i>American Behavioral Scientist</i>, 40, 2, 1996, pp. 186-194</p> <p>Devah Pager, "Measuring discrimination" in Miguel Angel Centeno; Katherine S. Newman (eds.) <i>Discrimination in an Unequal World</i>, New York: Oxford University Press, 2010, pp. 45-60</p>
Apr 10	<p>Human rights principles IV: Participation and inclusion</p> <p>Nancy Fraser, "Talking about needs: interpretive contests as political conflicts in welfare-state societies", <i>Ethics</i>, 99, 2, 1989, pp. 291-313</p> <p>De Beco, Gauthier. "The indivisibility of human rights and the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities." <i>International & Comparative Law Quarterly</i> 68, no. 1 (2019): 141-160.</p>
Apr 17	<p>Case studies</p> <p>İpek Göçmen and Volkan Yılmaz. "Exploring perceived discrimination among LGBT individuals in Turkey in education, employment, and health Care: Results of an online survey." <i>Journal of Homosexuality</i> 64, no. 8 (2017): 1052-1068.</p> <p>Volkan Yılmaz, "An examination of disability and employment policy in Turkey through the perspectives of disability non-governmental organisations and policy-makers." <i>Disability & Society</i> (2019): 1-23. (early view)</p>
May 15	Presentations of small-scale research on the influence of the politics of human rights and human rights activism on social policy <i>or</i> on measuring discrimination