

National Yang Ming University  
International Health Program  
**Social Justice and Human Rights**

Course coordinator: Prof. Song-Lih Huang, MD, ScD

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Class: Friday 10 ~ 12 am; Classroom: 401, Medical Building II

Office Hour: Thursday 10 ~ 12 am; Office: 304, Medical Building II

Week	Date	Topic	Lecturer
1	Sep. 18	Introduction: social justice and population health	SL Huang
2	Sep. 25	Utilitarianism	SL Huang
3	Oct. 02	Change Date Liberalism	SL Huang
4	Oct. 09	Change Date Rawls and liberal egalitarianism	SL Huang
5	Oct. 16	Marxian view of production and oppression	SL Huang
6	Oct. 23	Social inequity: power, oppression, and politics	SL Huang
7	Oct. 30	Autonomy	SL Huang
8	Nov. 06	The nature of rights; the basis of human rights	SL Huang
9	Nov. 13	Civil and political rights: democracy and liberty	SL Huang
10	Nov. 20	Social and economic rights: participation and protection Democracy and Accountability	SL Huang
11	Nov. 27	Properties of economic and social rights	SL Huang
12	Dec. 04	Proportionality and reasonableness	SL Huang
13	Dec. 11	Equality and discrimination	SL Huang
14	Dec. 18	Discrimination and positive measures: CRPD	SL Huang
15	Dec. 25	International law in domestic politics	SL Huang
16	Jan. 01	Happy New Year	SL Huang
17	Jan. 08	Tools to apply human rights in public policy	SL Huang
18	Jan. 15	Final Discussion/Exam	SL Huang

**Objectives:**

The concern on social justice is often represented by the question: what is the right thing to do? This question is of interest to everyone, particularly to public health professionals who are often involved in the process of public policy formulation. Applying the principles of social justice and human rights may help make difficult decisions such as trade-offs between freedom and equality, or between the benefits of different groups. The objectives of this course are:

- (1) To introduce the major theories of social justice, i.e., several approaches by which issues of social justice can be discussed;
- (2) To recognize the link between individual freedom and the wellbeing of the least advantaged members of the society;
- (3) To describe the scope of human rights prescribed in international human rights laws;
- (4) To identify the merits and shortcomings of a policy based on assessments on its impact on human rights.

**Grading:**

1. Class participation: 30%
2. Mid-term written report: 30%
3. Final exam: 40%

**Assigned readings:**

1. Will Kymlicka, *Contemporary political philosophy* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed). Oxford University Press, 2001.
2. Tom Campbell, *Rights: a critical introduction*. Routledge, 2006.
3. Michael Goodhart, *Human rights: politics and practice* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed). Oxford University Press, 2016.
4. Beth A. Simmons, *Mobilizing for human rights: international law in domestic politics*. Cambridge University Press, 2009.
5. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) General comments #3, #9, #20
6. Human Rights Committee (HRC) GC #25, #34
7. Committee on the Rights of persons with disabilities (CRPD) GC #6

**Recommended readings:**

1. John Rawls, *Justice as fairness: A restatement*. Belknap Press, 2001.

2. Thomas Pogge, John Rawls: his life and theory of justice. Oxford University Press, 2007.
3. Amartya Sen, Development as freedom. Anchor Books, 1999.
4. Iris Marion Young, Justice and the politics of difference. Princeton University Press, 1990.
5. Steven Lukes, Power: a radical view. Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.
6. WA Edmundson, John Rawls: Reticent Socialist. Cambridge University Press, 2017.
7. Martin O'Neill & Thad Williamson (eds), Property-owning democracy: Rawls and beyond. Wiley Blackwell, 2012.
8. Thomas Risse, Stephen C. Ropp, Kathryn Sikkink (eds), The power of human rights: International norms and domestic change. Cambridge University Press, 1999.
9. Manisuli Ssenyonjo, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in International Law. Hart Publishing, 2009.
10. Eibe Riedel, Gilles Giacca, Christophe Golay (eds), Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights in International Law: Contemporary Issues and Challenges. Oxford University Press, 2014.
11. Antony Atkinson, Inequality: what can be done? Harvard University Press, 2015.
12. David Harvey, Seventeen Contradictions and the End of Capitalism. Oxford University Press, 2015.
13. Charles R. Beitz, The idea of human rights. Oxford University Press, 2009.
14. Anna Lawson, Disability and Equality Law in Britain: The Role of Reasonable Adjustment. Hart Publishing, 2008.

Week	Topic	Lecturer
1	Introduction: social justice and population health	SL Huang
	Kymlicka Chap. 1, Chap 2	
2	Utilitarianism	SL Huang
	Kymlicka Chap. 2	
3	Liberalism	SL Huang
	Kymlicka Chap. 3 Elizabeth Anderson, Equality and freedom in the workplace: Recovering Republican Insights. Social Philosophy and Policy, 2015, 31(2): 48-69.	
4	Social inequality	SL Huang
	Kymlicka Chap. 4 Atkinson	

5	Rawls and liberal egalitarianism	SL Huang
	David Johnston, The theory of justice as fairness (in D. Johnston, A brief history of justice, 2011)	
6	Marxian view of production and oppression	SL Huang
	Kymlicka Chap. 5	
7	Social inequity: power, oppression, and politics	SL Huang
	Young, Chap. 2 Lukes	
8	The nature of rights; the basis of human rights	SL Huang
	The Universal Declaration of human rights CESCR general comment #3	
9	Civil and political rights: democracy and liberty	SL Huang
	HRC general comment #25 (right to participate in public affairs), general comment #34 (freedoms of opinion and expression)	
10	Social and economic rights: participation and protection	SL Huang
	CESCR, general comment #9	
11	Properties of economic and social rights	SL Huang
	CESCR, general comment #3	
12	Proportionality and reasonableness	SL Huang
13	Equality and discrimination	SL Huang
	CESCR, General Comment #20	
14	Discrimination and positive measures: CRPD	SL Huang
	CRPD, General Comment #6	
15	International law in domestic politics (1)	SL Huang
	Simmons: Chap. 3 theories of commitment	
16	International law in domestic politics (2)	SL Huang
	Simmons: Chap. 4 theories of compliance	
17	Tools to apply human rights in public policy	SL Huang
	WHO, Health Impact Assessment	
18	Final Discussion/Exam	SL Huang