

Human Rights Syllabus 2013 – 2014
What Are Human Rights?

Year-long Project: Action Research Project.

Unit 1 – Philosophical Foundations of Societies & Global HR

Classes 1 – 17 (17 classes) (8/28-10/9)

Essential Questions: Upon what philosophies are societies formed and how do they connect to Human Rights?

Readings: Excerpts from Global Philosophers from Plato to Xiarong Li

Main Project: Position Paper #1

Other Assessed work: Seminar, U1 Demo; written reading responses; Honors current events

First Assessment period ends 10/9.

Other important information: Conferences: October 14 & 15

Unit 2 - The History and Web of Structures of Global Human Rights

Classes 18 – 32 - 15 classes (10/10 – 11/20)

Essential Question: What local and global structures have societies created to uphold human rights?

Readings: Local, National and International organizations, both governmental and NGOs.

Main Projects: Position Paper #2; Human Rights Web Project

Other Assessed work: U2 Demo; written reading responses; Honors current events

Second Assessment period ends 12/18. Your first semester assessment will be based on your work for Units 1 & 2.

Unit 3 – Global State of Human Rights for Societies and Individuals

Classes 33 – 58 - 26 classes (11/ 21 – 2/12)

Essential Question: What constitutes a Human Rights violation?

Readings: Opposing viewpoints on a range of issues of justice & equity ranging from genocide to euthanasia to treatment of individuals and communities

Main Projects: Public Service Announcement; Opinion Editorial

Other Assessed work: U3 Demos; written reading responses; Honors current events

Other important information: Last Parent Conferences: January 30 & 31

Unit 4 – HR Responsibilities, Actions & Solutions

Classes 59-73 - 15 classes (2/13 – 3/21)

Essential Question: What are my responsibilities as a member of a functioning society?

Main Project: Action Research Project

Other Assessed work: Honors current events

Final Assessment period ends 3/21

Guest Speakers: Union Mission Rescue; Rape Treatment Center; Program for Torture Victims;

Readings:

Unit I – Philosophical Foundations

1. Summer Work – *Introduction to Human Rights in the World Community*, Richard P. Claude & Burns H. Weston, eds
2. Plato
3. Aristotle
4. Confucius
5. Mo Tzu
6. Buddha
7. Kant
8. Aquinas
9. Rousseau
10. Mill
11. Gandhi
12. Abdullahi (An-naim)
13. Xiaorong Li

Unit II – Structures

14. Michael Walzer *Humanitarianism*
15. Justice_at_Dachua
16. Postwar_Wrangling
17. United Nations
18. Defining_HR_too_Broadly
19. The_International_Criminal_Court
20. ICC_Article
21. NYT_ICC
22. NGO Viewpoints

*Site Visit Days:

- HR 1 – Mondays & Fridays before school until 10:50 (W/ advisor permission)
Tuesdays – 12:15 (lunch) until 2:15
- HR 2 – Mondays 10:55 through lunch 12:55/Friday 10:55 – 12:40
- Tuesdays leave school at 2:20.
- HR 3 – Mondays – lunch 12:15 – 2:15
- Thursday before school until 10:50 (W/ advisor permission)
- HR 4 – Mondays leave school at 2:20.
- Wednesdays – leave school at 11:10
- Thursdays – 10:55 through lunch 12:55

All students who have completed their internships can always visit their sites on Wednesdays.