Human Rights in East Asia: Theories and Practices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Times</td>
<td>Mon/Wed/Thu 13:00-16:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classroom</td>
<td>Bldg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equivalent Year Level</td>
<td>1/2/3/4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Credit</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructor</td>
<td>Bumsoo Kim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office</td>
<td>Bldg. 220 Rm. 323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bramhs@snu.ac.kr">bramhs@snu.ac.kr</a></td>
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Instructor’s Profile

Bumsoo Kim
Associate Professor, College of Liberal Studies, Seoul National University

Bumsoo Kim is a Professor of Political Science, College of Liberal Studies, SNU. He also worked as a Visiting Professor of the Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington. Professor Kim was a foreign research scholar at the Institute of Social Science, the University of Tokyo. He has also taught at the University of Chicago, Chungang University (Seoul, Korea) and many other Korean universities.

Education
Ph.D., Political Science, the University of Chicago
M.A., Political Science, the University of Chicago
M.A., International Relations, Seoul National University
B.A., International Relations, Seoul National University

Expertise
Contemporary Political Theory, Human Rights, Nationalism, Multiculturalism

Most Recent Works
Course Information

Course Description
The purpose of this course is to examine various human rights issues in East Asia from theoretical perspectives. We will first examine major theories of human rights including Hobbes’, Locke’s, Rousseau’s, Mill’s theories of human rights. Second, we will apply these theories to the East Asian (and global) context, and examine various human rights issues in East Asia (and the world) theoretically, in particular, focusing on the following questions. What are human rights? What kinds of rights do individuals have? To what extent can government legitimately limit individuals’ rights? What are the limits of individual rights? What if there is a conflict between the government’s power and individuals’ human rights? What are the limits of freedom, for example, the freedom of expression? Can racial prejudice be justified as a freedom of thought? Do we have rights to break law? Who are refugees? What differences are there between refugees and illegal immigrants? Why and to what extent do we need to care about the basic human rights of foreigners who are not members of my country? Third, we will examine the “Asian values” debates and discuss the possibility of universal human rights.

Course Evaluation
Attendance (10%)
Participation (15%)
Mid-term Exam (25%)
Final Presentation (25%)
Final Exam (25%)

Attendance will be important for keeping up with class. Good attendance and active participation will be reflected in grade.

Course Materials
Hand-outs

Class Policy
(Insert as necessary)

Etc.
(e.g. Guidelines)
Please be advised that questions for Mid-term exam will be based on lecture given in class, not text book.

Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Etc</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Overview &amp; Introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Hobbes’ Theory of Human Rights I</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hobbes’ Theory of Human Rights II</td>
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| **4** | **Locke’s Theory of Human Rights**  
| **5** | **Rousseau’s Theory of Human Rights**  
| **6** | **Topic: Mill’s Theory of Human Rights**  
| **7** | **Mid-term Exam** |
| **8** | **Definition of Human Rights**  
| **9** | **Positivism, Utilitarianism, and Human Rights**  
| **10** | **Subsistence Rights**  
| **11** | **Cultural Rights**  
| **12** | **North Korean Defectors**  
Movie: *Crossing* (2009); Director: Tae-Kyun Kim. |
| **13** | **Human Rights and “Asian Values”**  
Movie: *Strip Search* (2004); Director: Sidney Lumet |
| **14** | **Final Presentation** |
| **15** | **Final Exam** |