



Human Rights in East Asia: Theories and Practices

Course Code			
Class Times	Mon/Wed/Thu 13:00-16:00	Classroom	
Equivalent Year Level	2~4	Course Credit	3
Instructor	Bumsoo Kim	Sessions	1-14
Office	Bldg. 220 Rm. 323	Email	bramhs@snu.ac.kr

□ 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

- “Are North Korean Compatriots ‘Korean’?: The Trifurcation of Ethnic Nationalism in South Korea during the Syngman Rhee Era (1948-1960),” *The Journal of Korean Studies*, vol. 24, no. 1 (2019; forthcoming).
- “Are *Chae’ilgyopo* Really “Korean”?: An Analysis of *Chae’ilgyopo*’s Images Represented in Daily Newspapers in the 1970s,” *Ilbonbipyung*, vol. 17 (2017), pp. 284-316.
- “Whether Is a *Chae’ilkyopo* ‘Korean’? An Analysis of Newspaper Articles from the 5·16 Coup to the October *Yushin*,” *Korean Journal of International Studies*, vol. 56, no. 2 (2016), pp. 163-206.



□ 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, legal positivist, liberal, communitarian, and utilitarian 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? Why do we need a government? To what extent can government legitimately limit individuals' rights? What kinds of rights do individuals have? What are the limits of government power? What is law? Why should we obey laws, in particular, "bad" laws? What if there is a conflict between the government's sovereign 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? 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%) 5 memos (25%) Mid-term Exam (25%) Final Presentation (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	<i>(Insert as necessary)</i>
Etc. <i>(e.g. Guidelines)</i>	Please be advised that questions for Mid-term exam will be based on lecture given in class, not text book.

□ Course Schedule

Classical Theories of Human Rights

Session 1 (Jun. 27, Wed) – Introduction

No reading assignment

Session 2 (Jun. 28, Thu) - Topic: Hobbes' Theory of Human Rights I

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Indianapolis: Hackett Pub. Co., 1994), chaps. 13-18, pp. 74-90 and 101-118.



Session 3 (Jul. 2, Mon) – Topic: Hobbes’ Theory of Human Rights II

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Indianapolis: Hackett Pub. Co., 1994), chaps. 21, 26, and 29, pp. 136-145, 172-189, and 210-219.

Session 4 (Jul. 4, Wed) – Topic: Locke’s Theory of Human Rights

John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988), Book II, chaps. 1-4 and 7-9, pp. 267-285 and 318-353.

Session 5 (Jul. 5, Thu) – Topic: Rousseau’s Theory of Human Rights

Jean J. Rousseau, *The Social Contract* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997), Book I, chaps. 1-7 and Book II, chaps. 1-10, pp. 41-53 and 57-78.

Session 6 (Jul. 9, Mon) – Topic: Mill’s Theory of Human Rights

John S. Mill, *On Liberty* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989), chaps. I-II, pp. 5-55.

Session 7 (Jul. 11, Wed) – Mid-term Exam

Contemporary Human Rights Theories and East Asia

Session 8 (Jul. 12, Thu) - Topic: Definition of Human Rights

Joseph Raz, “On the Nature of Rights,” *Mind*, v. 93, no. 370 (April 1984), pp. 194-214.
Maurice Cranston, “Human Rights, Real and Supposed,” in D.D. Raphael, ed. *Political Theory and the Rights of Man* (London: Macmillan, 1967), ch. 4, pp. 43-53.

Session 9 (Jul. 16, Mon) – Topic: Positivism, Utilitarianism, and Human Rights

Ronald Dworkin, *Taking Rights Seriously* (Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press, 1977), ch. 7, pp. 184-205.

Session 10 (Jul. 18, Wed) – Topic: Subsistence Rights

Henry Shue, *Basic Rights* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996), Introduction and Part II. pp. 5-10, 91-110, and 131-152.

Session 11 (Jul. 19, Thu) – Topic: Cultural Rights

Will Kymlicka, *Multicultural Citizenship* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995), chs. 1 -3, pp. 1-48.

Session 12 (Jul. 23, Mon) – Topic: North Korean Defectors

Christina Boswell, “European Values and the Asylum Crisis,” *International Affairs*, v. 76, no. 3 (July 2000), pp. 537-357.
Movie: *Crossing* (2009); Director: Tae-Kyun Kim.

Session 13 (Jul. 25, Wed) – Topic: Human Rights and “Asian Values”

Daniel Bell, “The East Asian Challenge to Human Rights,” *Human Rights Quarterly*, v. 18, no. 3 (1996), pp. 641-67.
Jack Donnelly, “Human Rights and Asian Values: A Defense of ‘Western’ Universalism,” in J.



R. Bauer and D. Bell, eds., *The East Asian Challenge for Human Rights* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999), ch. 2.
Movie: *Strip Search* (2004); Director: Sidney Lumet

Session 14 (Jul. 26, Thu) – Final Presentation