



UNIVERSITY OF KERALA

Discipline	POLITICAL SCIENCE				
Course Code	UK3DSEPOS202				
Course Title	Human Rights in India				
Type of Course	DSE				
Semester	2				
Academic Level	200 – 299				
Course Details	Credit	Lecture per week	Tutorial per week	Practical per week	Total Hours/Week
	4	4 hours	-	-	4
Pre-requisites	1. 2.				
Course Summary	This course provides an in-depth understanding of human rights issues within the context of India. The historical, social, political, and legal dimensions of human rights in India, within the constitutional framework is discussed in this course. The course will cover a range of topics, including constitutional rights, social justice, gender equality, minority rights, environmental sustainability, and the role of civil society.				

Detailed Syllabus:

Module	Unit	Content	Hrs
I	Introduction to Human Rights		12
	1	Definition and Generations of Human Rights	
	2	Characteristics, types and dimensions of Human rights	
	3	Historical development of human rights, Historical context of human rights in India	
	4	Constitutional provisions and legal framework for human rights protection in India	
II	Human Rights Institutions and Mechanisms in India		12
	5	Legal remedies and mechanisms for addressing human rights violations in India- Human Rights Act 1993	
	6	National Human Rights Commission (NHRC): mandate, functions, and effectiveness	
	7	State Human Rights Commissions (SHRCs) and their role in human rights protection	
	8	Role of Judiciary, Media, Police and Civil society organizations and their contribution to human rights advocacy in India	
III	Human Rights Issues in Contemporary India		12
	9	Rights of marginalized communities: Dalits, Adivasis, religious minorities, and LGBTQ+ individuals	
	10	Human Rights and Gender Equality	

	11	Human rights violations in conflict zones: Kashmir, Northeast India, and Maoist-affected areas	
	12	Caste-based discrimination and the struggle for social justice	
	13	Human Rights and Development in India	
	14	Right to education and access to healthcare in India	
	15	Socio-economic rights and poverty alleviation programs	
	16	Environmental rights and sustainable development challenges	
	17	Impact of Globalization and economic reforms on human rights in India	
IV	Human Rights Activism and Movements in India		12
	18	Overview of key human rights movements in India: environmental justice, tribal rights, anti-corruption, etc. (Narmada Bachavo Andolan, Chipko, Jan Lokpal)	
	19	Role of social activists, NGOs, and grassroots organizations in promoting human rights	
	20	Strategies and challenges in human rights advocacy and mobilization in India- Awareness, Hashtag campaigns, social media mobilisation etc.	
	21	Case studies of successful human rights campaigns and movements in India- (Nirbhaya Movement-Anti rape movement, RTI, RTE, Forest Rights act)	
	22	Struggles for human Rights: Understanding major judgements (Shah Bano case, Vishakha case)	
V	Open Ended Module: Human Rights in Practice: Case Studies and Applications		12
	23	Analysis of contemporary human rights issues through case studies, newspaper reports, film analysis etc.	
	24	Fieldwork or guest lectures from activists working in the field of human rights	
	25	Visit a jail/ human rights commission/ an orphanage/ local NGO and know about their functioning	

Essential Readings

Alston, P., & Mégret, F. (1992). *The United Nations and Human Rights: A Critical Appraisal*. OUP.

Alston, P. (2000). *Promoting Human Rights through Bills of Rights: Comparative Perspectives*. OUP.

An-Na'im, A. (2014). *Human Rights: Old Problems, New Possibilities*. The University of Chicago Press.

Bajpai, A. (2018). *Child Rights in India: Law, Policy and Practice*. OUP.

Boersema, D. (2018). *Philosophy of Human Rights: Theory and Practice*. Routledge.

Brown, G. (2016). *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the 21st Century: A Living Document in a Changing World*. Global Citizenship Commission. Open Book.

Chakrabarty, B., & Pandey, R. K. (2008). *Indian Government and Politics*. Sage.

Donnelly, J. (2019). *The Concept of Human Rights*. Routledge.

Evans, T. (2019). *International Human Rights Law*. Oxford University Press.

Freeman, M. (2011). *Human Rights: An Interdisciplinary Approach*. Polity Press.

Halme-tuomisaari, M., & Slotte, P. (Eds.). (2015). *Revisiting the Origins of Human Rights*. Cambridge University Press.