

Course code & scope: GKAS3412 / 6 cr. (ECTS).

Course title in English: Human Rights, Global Ethos and the Problem of Religion.

Course title in Finnish: Ihmisoikeudet, globaali eetos sekä uskonnon probleema.

Course language: English & Finnish.

Course obligatoriness: Required from students that have chosen Global Education as a minor subject; optional for others.

Target group: Students with special interest in the global and multicultural dimension of education.

Learning objectives: Upon completing the course, the student

- understands and is able to analyse universal and ethical challenges presented by a multicultural and multiproblematic world, and to view the necessity of global standards (esp. human rights) in solving collective challenges.
- is able to problematize the reality of a pluralistic society and discerns its ethical-moral possibilities and limitations.
- is capable of viewing the global effects of the Western world view as well as its strengths and weaknesses in relation to global challenges and the diversity of world views prevailing amidst humankind.
- acknowledges the problem of religion: on the one hand, the roots of social conflicts often originating from religion, and on the other hand, the historical civilizing effect of world religions.
- has become acquainted with the ongoing interfaith dialogue and the related quest for a common ethical foundation as an attempt to break with the traditional deadlock of religions and proceed towards a more constructive realization of the phenomenon of religion in the society.

Contents:

- The necessity of globally sustainable standards, such as the UN's Declaration of Human Rights, in the face of universal challenges, and applying these in the world's multicultural and the society's pluralistic reality; the Western civilization, its historical global influence and the opportunities and pitfalls it offers; the influence of religions on the life of society; religions both as dynamic and regenerative civilizational impulses and as engines driving conflicts and inequality; the ongoing interfaith dialogue with its possibilities and shortcomings.

Literature:

- *The Spirit of Community: Rights, Responsibilities and the Communitarian Agenda*, A. Etzioni, 1995.
- *Education for Global Responsibility*, Ministry of Education in Finland (eds. T. Kaivola & M. Melén-Paaso), 2007.
- *World Citizenship: Allegiance to Humanity*, J. Rotblat, (ed.), 1997.
- In addition, the student selects other source books in consultation with the teacher.

Implementation & working methods:

- Lectures: 20h; group discussions: 5h; independent work: 135h.

Required accomplishments:

- Active participation in the lectures and group discussions; study of the literature; writing an essay (in pairs or in small groups); writing a learning journal (individually)

Evaluation: 5-1/fail.

Time: 3rd academic year, November-December (2nd period, autumn term).

Required preceding studies: course GKAS3411 (exceptions negotiable).

Responsible person: Partow Izadi, senior lecturer.