



IDS 4930

Human Rights in Asia

Investigate the framework of human rights with reference to Asian countries, exploring the perspectives of local belief systems, episodes of political violence and genocide and the application of universalist ideals into culturally diverse locals.

Spring '22 | Dr. Timothy Karis | MWF - Period 7 | 3 credits

Since the end of World War II, the framework of human rights has dominated international discourse about social justice. This class critically investigates the framework of human rights with reference to Asian countries, analyzing the tensions related to the application of universalist ideals onto culturally diverse locales. We begin with the origins of different national and global standards of human rights, including perspectives from Asian belief systems.

Next, we look to Asia's 20th century history of political violence, identifying how basic rights can become eroded and how societies continue to memorialize past atrocities and seek accountability. Finally, we will examine the contemporary experiences of ethnic minorities in Asia facing legal obstacles and persecution. The class draws upon case studies from Cambodia, China, Japan, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Qatar, and elsewhere.