

HUMR 5131 – Midterm assignments – autumn 2019

Choose one of the two questions below:

1. Human Rights as a Category of Thought

In his standard reference book about human rights, James Nickel notes that 'many people around the world have adopted "human rights violations" as a category of political thought and appraisal. Discuss this assertion and give examples of how the use of use terms like 'human rights violations, or, for instance, 'a critical human rights situation' influence the way political issues are handled? Use material from the reading list to show the implications of adopting human rights as a framework for political action. Choose a country where this problematique is acute to ground your argument.

2. Human Rights and Politics

It is often said that the protection of human rights is under increasing pressure these days in different parts of the world. Do you agree with this assessment? How would you discuss this proposition in terms of contending approaches to human rights in international relations, as, for instance, identified by David Forsythe?

