

Exam questions final assignment HUMR5131 autumn 2020

Choose one of the three questions below:

1) Human Rights as a Category of Political Appraisal

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 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 and choose a country where this problematique is particularly acute at the moment.

2) Human Rights in History

Various articles and book chapters on your reading list offer different accounts of the prominent role human rights play in today's world, as well as different methodologies to the task of studying this apparent prominence. Select at least two different approaches and apply them to the task of explaining the place of human rights in two or more countries that you know. What are the strong and weak points of the respective approaches?

3) Human Rights and Philosophy

The idea of universal moral human rights can be criticized. Choose one or two perspectives critical to this idea and discuss the merits of this/these perspective(s). Use the readings from the syllabus in your discussion.



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