

HUMR 5702. Human Rights and Development. Interdisciplinary perspectives on theory and Practices

Winter 2012

Exam Essay

Choose one of the following two essays:

1. Academic Book Review

Write an *academic book review* of the following title:

Martha Nussbaum. *Creating Capabilities. The Human Development Approach*. Cambridge. Harvard University Press, 2011.

Review the composition, structure, style, and subject/s presented by the text. The link between capabilities and human rights should be addressed, but you decide how much space you would use on this. What matters most, is the review of the whole volume.

Do not use references to other texts than the book itself. Make few quotations, but if you make quotations, use quotation marks and refer to the page in parenthesis (example: "quotation text followed by page reference" (p. 34)). Do not make a title of the text – just refer to the book as written above.

Try to address (at least) the following review points:

- introduce the reader to the text in overall terms, and the field of research that it addresses;
- discuss the main argument/s critically and assess their validity for the research field (e.g. is it of any relevant for poverty (or another substantive field))
- avoid a "chapter by chapter" review, focus on the main trust of the text, even if you may want to pay particular attention to one or a few chapters because they are the ones you find most path breaking
- Assess the writing style, language, accessibility for the readership etc.
- Make an overall assessment.

Please, *do not* use subtitles.

The review *must not* exceed 1.500 words (plus/minus 15%). It shall follow the format of reviews that are published in international human rights journals. Good examples are e.g. the Book Review Section of *Human Rights Quarterly* or the *Nordic Journal of Human Rights*, although these reviews are generally shorter than the one you are asked to prepare.

Please find attached the information for referees (guideline) used by the *Nordic Journal of Human Rights*. It is not mandatory to apply this guideline, but it may help you decide on how to structure your essay.

2. Design and write the text of a Human Rights Newsletter

Pretend that you work as an information officer in a development institution. Develop the text and design of a Newsletter (sometimes referred to as Bulletin etc.) of your Institution (public (state-driven) or private (an NGO)). Chose a human rights and poverty related issue and produce a Newsletter that is supposed to inform the general public about your institution's work on the subject. Examples might be: The right to education and poverty; the right to health and poverty, child rights and poverty; participatory development; legal empowerment of the poor, etc.

The Newsletter should have two components; the message you want to convey, and the way you convey it. This implies that this essay combines substance and creativity. Don't forget that we are living in a digital age. You may want to produce one long text or several small texts – your choice. Keep in mind that the purpose of a newsletter is to catch the attention and interest of the reader (your target group), and possibly enhance interest and support.

The Newsletter shall not exceed 2.500 words, but there is no page limite as you may want to use images, boxes etc. Try to design the Newsletter within the scope of four A4 pages (this is just an indication; the length depends on format and design). Be very careful to make exact references to sources that you use (literature or web sources). You may use footnotes or a bibliography as you wish. Also make references if you use pictures or statistics etc. that others have produced.

You might find some inspiration (good or bad!) on the following websites, or others that you find on the web or other places.

Newsletter (Bulletin) examples:

[http://www.searo.who.int/LinkFiles/Health_and_Human_Rights - HHR Human Rights newsletter.pdf](http://www.searo.who.int/LinkFiles/Health_and_Human_Rights_-_HHR_Human_Rights_newsletter.pdf)

<http://www.hrw.org/newsletter>

http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/treaty/newsletter_treaty_bodies.htm

http://www.unesco.org/archives/hrgnews/hrg3_042010.php

Submission date: 19 March 2012, at 16:00.

Attachment

Nordic Journal of Human Rights Information for Referees

Thank you for your willingness to review the attached manuscript. Your reviewing is an integral part of our editorial process, and will be of significant import for our evaluation as to whether the manuscript should be published in the Nordic Journal of Human Rights.

It is suggested that you, when preparing your written review, address the following issues, preferably in ways which may be submitted directly to the author of the manuscript in question.

Relevance:

The Nordic Journal of Human Rights is a multi-disciplinary journal on human rights. Although primarily Nordic in outreach, the journal deals with issues that are of interest also for our international readers. Articles that address country-specific issues should be written in a way which enables readers from other countries to follow the discussion.

Accessibility:

Any article from a discipline concerned with human rights issues speaks primarily to members of its same community (e.g., lawyers to lawyers, sociologists to sociologists). This is understandable, and a necessary part of scientific discourse. Yet, the journal's multi-disciplinary character necessitates that there is communication also across disciplinary boundaries. Does the manuscript enable readers from other disciplines to comprehend and follow the thesis and the discussion?

Originality:

Human rights research sometimes (sadly) tends towards the repetitive. The journal encourages the publication of research that paves new ground, asks new questions and brings the field of human rights research and debate forward. Does the manuscript provide new information or new arguments that can help human rights research in the right direction?

Coherence, logic and flow:

Manuscripts being published in the journal should be structured coherently and logically. Arguments, sources and information should be presented rigorously and clearly. Also, we favour articles that are written lucidly in the language chosen. Any comments on coherence, language, logic and flow are welcome.

Miscellaneous:

You might want to comment on other issues as well.

Your final judgement:

We would welcome your clear judgement as to whether the article deserves publication. You might want to consider the use of the following conclusions: rejected, accepted with changes, accepted but with minor changes.

*Prepared by the editorial office
March 2005*