INSTRUCTORS:
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:
The course examines the links between health and human rights and highlights the role of the physician as a change agent. Through lectures and class discussions, the course provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to recognize, document, and alleviate human suffering caused by human rights violations.

Class discussions will address the ethical obligations of physicians in the face of human rights violations; the role of the physician in documenting health consequences of human rights violations; the health response in complex humanitarian disasters; treatment of the physical and psychological sequelae of trauma; the impact of health policies on the protection of human rights; and human rights advocacy. The particular needs of women and children will be highlighted. Students will leave the course with a solid understanding of human rights norms as they affect the health of individuals and communities, the extent of human rights violations in the world, and the health consequences of human rights protections or violations on individuals, families, and communities. Guest lecturers include physicians who have investigated health and human rights violations in the U.S. and overseas.

REQUIRED BOOKS:
1) Course Readings

ASSIGNMENTS:
By the middle of the course, students will choose a health and human rights topic to research and present to the class. At that time, each student will briefly present their research study proposal and distribute a one-page description of their topic that includes: a research question, background information, significance, methods, and a plan of action. At the end of the course, students will submit their research paper and present their work in class for 15-20 minutes.

EVALUATION:
Students’ conceptual understanding and knowledge will be assessed through their participation in class and by their oral and written presentation of their research project.

HOURS OF THE COURSE:  
TOTAL: 76 hours or 2 credits
14 sessions of 2 hours of formal classes Lectures and Discussions 28
2 hours/session of required outside-the-classroom readings 28
Preparation and research involved in research project 20
Medicine, Human Rights, and the Physician
Fall 2005 Speaker List

September 13
Carola Eisenberg, MD, Kris Heggenhougen, PhD, and Kari Hannibal, MA: Course Introduction
Susannah Sirkin, MEd: Introduction to International Human Rights and Health

September 20
Alicia Ely Yamin, JD, MPH: The Right to Health

September 27
Hilarie Cranmer, MD, MPH, FACEP: Humanitarian Lessons Learned from Complex Humanitarian Emergencies: Post-tsunami Indonesia

October 4
Joia Mukherjee, MD: Human Rights Priorities in the Global HIV Pandemic

October 11
Michael Grodin, MD: Treatment Issues in Working with Survivors of Torture and Refugee Trauma

October 18
H. K. Heggenhougen, PhD: Health and Human Rights Issues Affecting AIDS Orphans in Africa

October 25
Sofia Gruskin, JD, MIA: The Right to Information, Reproductive Rights, Sexual Rights, and Women’s Health

November 1
Nancy Krieger, PhD: The Public Health Disparities Geocoding Project: Monitoring U.S. Social Inequalities in Health

November 8
Carola Eisenberg, MD: The Human Rights of Children

November 15

November 22

November 29: Student Presentations

December 6: Student Presentations

December 13: Student Presentations and last day of class