**EHR 2102 Theories of Human Rights**

**Course description**

The course will involve examination of the various theories of Human Rights; like the natural law, the divine law and the human law theories. It will also look at the justifications of the natural law theory, conventional law theory, legal law theory, contractual theories etc. Among others, the sociological theory, the idealist theory, the economic theory, the modern-realist theory, the historical theory and the positivist theory will also be examined. Basic concepts relevant to defining and clarifying human rights like claims, duties, privileges, liberties, obligations, social responsibility will be analyzed. Attempts to categorize rights drawing attention not only to the various types of rights but also to such distinctions like legal or conventional and then moral or natural rights will be done.

**Course Objectives**

This course will enable the students to assess the different theories of human rights such as; Natural Law theory, idealist theory, Positive theory, natural law theory, Conventional theory, sociological theory and modern realist theory. Students will be helped to understand concepts such as; claims, obligations, privileges, liberty and social responsibility.

**Learning Objectives**

By the end of the course, students will be able to;

1. Differentiate between the different human rights
2. Understand the different concepts studied in the course.
3. Critique the different human rights theories
4. Know the ethical foundations of the different human theories
5. Know the logical, metaphysical and epistemological foundations of the different human rights theories
6. Know the role of theory to practice.
7. Situate the epochal stances of the different theories.

**Course outline**

1. Philosophical tools and the study of Human rights
2. Philosophical approaches to the study of society evolution
3. Between theory and practice of human rights
4. Classical theories of human rights
5. Modern theories of human rights
6. Postmodern theories of Human rights
7. Contemporary theories of human rights

**Methodology**

The facilitator(s) will employ the following methods; lectures, expert talks, question and answer, demonstration, study trips, Individual presentations, group discussions.

**Assessment Mode**

Take home exercise 15%

Practical exercise test 15%

End of semester examination 70%

**Reading List**

Cranston, 1993, *What are Human rights?*, Basic Books.

Donnely J., 2002, *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice*, Cornell University Press.

Dworkin R., 1990, *Taking Rights Seriously*, Harvard University Press

Gonsalves M., ed, 1990, *Fagothey’s Right and Reason*, Prentice Hall

Jones P., 1994, *Rights*, St. Martin’s Press.