**EHR 2206 Poverty, Ethics and Human Rights**

**Course Description**

The cause seeks to show the tripartite relationship between poverty, ethics and human rights – right from classical sources, through the modern to the contemporary period. Examination is made of how classical philosophers Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Adam Smith John Kenneth Galbraith (and others) handled the fate of the poor and the ethical justifications that were involved for the purpose. In the Contemporary period, focus is on the phenomenon of poverty and how this has in the various ways imparted on human rights and vice versa. This course shall conclude by relating this whole discussion to the Ugandan situation.

**Course objective**

Poverty is a problem that is \* faced with regard to human rights. On the one hand, poverty itself causes serious human rights abuses may lead to poverty. Although poverty is so centrally related to human rights, nevertheless, the poor have not always been treated kindly, by even those who espoused high ethical and human rights standards. This course seeks to help learners appreciate why/and how poverty as a problem has been deem played both in antiquity and modern periods. Further, the course shows how even renown Ethicists, downplayed the problem, indicating thereby it was not a moral but a moral issue. The course will finally help learners appreciate the dialectical relationship between poverty and human rights.

**Learning Objectives**

1. By the end of this course learners will be able to know how poverty has been treated in classical and modern periods
2. Learners will be able to see the dialectical relationship between poverty and human rights and vice versa.
3. Learners will be exposed to contemporary theories (Amartya Sen, Francis Fakuyams) and others that attempt to address the question of poverty and human rights.

**Course outline**

1. Poverty in classical sources – Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Adam Smith, John Kenneth Galbraith.
2. Poverty as individual failure, ethical and human rights implications.
3. The emergence of structural conception of poverty John Stuart Mill (etc...)
4. The dialectical nature of poverty and human rights – local and international case studies.
5. Contemporary approaches towards addressing poverty, ethical and human rights approach.
6. Limitation of the contemporary approaches.

**Methodology**

The facilitator(s) will employ the following methods; Video tapes, Inquiry, small group discussions, Case studies, Guest speaker, lectures with discussion, Class discussion, , Report back Session, values clarification exercise, explanations.

**Assessment Mode**

Take home exercise 15%

Practical exercise test 15%

End of semester examination 70%

**Reading List**

* + Global Poverty, Ethics and Human Rights. The Role of multinational organizations.
  + By Desmond McNeill. Asuncien Lara Stelair 2009 Routledge.
  + *Realizing Rawls* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1989)
  + *John Rawls* (Munchen: C.H.Beck Verlag, 1994)
  + “Eradicating Systemic Poverty: brief for a global resources dividend” *Journal of Human Development* Vol.2 No.1, 2001
  + “Recognized and Violated by International Law: The Human Rights of the Global Poor” *Leiden Journal of International Law* 18/4 (2005).
  + John Rawls: His life and Theory of Justice, trans. Michelle Kosch (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006)
  + (With Christian Barry) Global Institutions and Responsibilities: Achieving Global Justice. (Malden, Massachusetts: Blackwell, 2006).
  + (ed.) *Freedom from Poverty as a Human Rights: Who owes what to the very poor*? (Oxford UP, 2007)
  + World Poverty and Human Rights: Cosmopolitan Responsibilities and Reforms, second, expanded edition (Cambridge: Polity Press 2008).