**EHR 3207 Children’s Rights**

***Course Description***

The course aims at helping students to understand the nature, scope and content of children’s Rights as well as the role and scope of parental and local authorities in the protection. The students will also be equipped with skills of assessing the instruments instituted to promote and protect children’s rights.

**Course Objective**

The course examines the nature, scope and content of children’s Rights as well as the role and scope of parental and local authorities in the protection. Instruments instituted to promote and protect children’s rights are assessed.

***Learning Objectives***

By the end of the course students should be able:

Understand the controversies surrounding the definition of a child

Critically assess the content of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Understand the challenges of domesticating the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Differentiate between child labor and child work

Compare and contrast the understanding of children’s rights with in the African Human rights system as opposed to the UN human rights system.

To assess the content of the Children Act of 1996

To assess the challenges of child sacrifice and adoption

To assess various themes related to children’s rights

**Course outline**

1. Definition of a child in the UN system and the African Human Rights system
2. The scope and content of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
3. Children’s Rights: Universalism Versus Cultural relativism
4. Domestication of Children’s Rights
5. Children Act of 1996
6. The enforcement of children’s rights
7. Children in conflict with the law
8. Abortion and the Right to life
9. Child sacrifice
10. The right to education
11. Child labor versus child work
12. Divorce and separation
13. Parenting and adoption

***Methodology***

Lectures, role play, group work, discussions, tutorials

***Assessment***

30% Course work

70% End of semester examination

***Reading List***

1. [Convention on the Rights of the Child"](http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/k2crc.htm). [United Nations](United%20Nations), http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/k2crc.htm. accessed, 15-6-2010
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4. Lansdown, G. "Children's welfare and children's rights," in Hendrick, H. (2005) *Child Welfare And Social Policy: An Essential Reader.* The Policy Press. p. 117
5. Lansdown, G. (1994). "Children's rights," in B. Mayall (ed.) *Children's childhood: Observed and experienced.* London: The Falmer Press. p 33.
6. Jenks, C. (1996) "Conceptual limitations," *Childhood.* New York: Routledge. p 43.
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9. Franklin, B. (2001) *The new handbook of children's rights: comparative policy and practice.* Routledge. p 19.
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15. ["A-Z of Children's Rights"](http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=13423), Children's Rights Information Network.
16. Freeman, M. (2000) "The Future of Children's Rights," *Children & Society. 14*(4) p 277-93.
17. Calkins, C.F. (1972) "Reviewed Work: Children's Rights: Toward the Liberation of the Child by Paul Adams", *Peabody Journal of Education. 49*(4). p. 327.
18. ["Children's Rights"](http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/rights-children/), *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2008*.
19. Brownlie, J. and Anderson, S. (2006) "'Beyond Anti-Smacking': Rethinking parent–child relations," *Childhood. 13*(4) p 479-498.
20. Cutting, E. (1999) "Giving Parents a Voice: A Children's Rights Issue," *Rightlines. 2* ERIC #ED428855.
21. Brennan, S. and Noggle, R. (1997) "The Moral Status of Children: Children's Rights, Parent's Rights, and Family Justice," *Social Theory and Practice. 23.*
22. Kaslow, FW (1990) Children who sue parents: A new form of family homicide? *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy. 16*(2) p 151–163.
23. ["What is equal shared parenting?"](http://www.fact.on.ca/) Fathers Are Capable Too: Parenting Association, 2008.
24. Starr, RH (1975) *Children's Rights: Countering the Opposition.* Paper presented at the 83rd Annual Meeting of the [American Psychological Association](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Psychological_Association) in Chicago, Illinois, Aug. 30-Sept. 3, 1975. ERIC ID# ED121416.
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26. Lansdown, G. (1994). "Children's rights," in B. Mayall (ed.) *Children's childhood: Observed and experienced.* London: The Falmer Press. (p 33-34).
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28. Mason, M.A. (2005) ["The U.S. and the international children's rights crusade: leader or laggard?"](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m2005/is_4_38/ai_n15681379) *Journal of Social History.* Summer.
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