Spring 2020 Course Offering

IDS4930: Human Rights in Asia
(Special Topics in Interdisciplinary Studies)

Since the end of World War II, the framework of human rights has dominated international discourse about social justice. This class critically investigates and applies the framework of human rights with reference to Asian countries and cultures, analyzing the tensions related to the application of universalist ideals onto culturally diverse localities. We begin with the origins of different national and global standards of human rights, including perspectives from relevant Asian belief systems. Next, we look to Asia’s 20th century history of political violence, identifying how basic rights can become eroded and how societies continue to memorialize past atrocities and seek justice and accountability. Finally, we will examine the contemporary experiences of ethnic minorities in Asia facing legal obstacles and persecution. The class draws upon case studies from Cambodia, China, Taiwan, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, and elsewhere.

Instructor: Dr. Timothy Karis (International Studies)
Course time: M/W/F – Period 7 (1:55-2:45 PM)
Course location: LIT 0127
How to register: Find course listing under “Interdisciplinary Studies” from the drop-down menu