I. Introduction
What are human rights and what reasons are there for thinking that persons have rights? Are some rights more basic than others and what compelling interests, if any, justify their violation? The course will look closely at international human rights policies and the moral and political issues to which they give rise as they are embedded in actual, concrete cases.

Opening sections of the course will be devoted to an examination of the rights of civilians and non-combatants in time of war, at Hiroshima, during the fire-bombing of Dresden, at Mylai, and the Nuremberg Trials. Discussion will include the role considerations of human rights ought to play in the foreign policy of any country as well as an examination of the role such considerations actually have played — most recently in Darfur and the Sudan, Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Rwanda, Chechnya, and Somalia as well as in China, Haiti, Iraqi Kurdistan, Tibet, Thailand, Burma, East Timor, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Kenya, Iran, Pakistan, the United States and South Africa.

Discussion will also include: territorial integrity and the ethics of humanitarian intervention, state sovereignty and human rights violations, U. S. intervention in Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq, international terrorism and human rights, the morality of torture, the Geneva Convention and cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment of prisoners in the war against terrorism, the role of international peacekeeping forces, the responsibilities of individuals and states to alleviate world hunger and famine, and the moral and political issues surrounding the plight of refugees and homeless persons, and the case to be made for international war crime tribunals v. truth and reconciliation commissions.

II. Class Times
The course will meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays from 12:10 to 1:00 PM in OLIN-SANG 101.

III. Reading
Primary texts will be available at the University Book Store:
There will also be a specially prepared collection of readings and documents available on Electronic Reserve in LATTE accessible by Password. A complete list of these readings will be handed out as well as be available online.

**IV. Writing**
Three papers are required on topics growing out of the readings and class discussions. The papers should be about 7 pages in length, preferably typewritten. Paper topics will be available at least ten (10) days before a paper is due. It is wise to make a copy of a paper before handing in the original. If you are working on a computer, make a back-up.

**V. Rewriting**
You will be given the opportunity to rewrite one of your papers. Rewrites must be accompanied by a copy of the original paper with the comments, plus a cover sheet, attached to the original and the rewrite, stating how you have improved the paper and spelling out in some detail what you have done to make your paper, now rewritten, that much more wonderful. The grade you receive on your rewrite will be the grade you receive for the paper. The grade will not be an average of the grade on the original and the rewrite. More will be said about rewriting in class at the time papers are handed back.

**VI. Examinations**
There will be a short-answer quiz in class towards the end of the semester. There will be no other written examinations, final or otherwise.

**VII. Human Rights Logs (Journals)**
You shall also be asked to keep a log or journal throughout the semester. The log should not be used for note-taking or for jotting down quotations or for making commentaries on the readings (although you may wish to use a separate note-book for these tasks), but should be reserved exclusively to give and develop your own answers to certain basic questions on human rights issues. Questions will arise throughout the semester, questions for which there may not be necessarily any, easy or obvious answers, and these questions will be singled-out and identified as questions for the Human Rights logs.

**VIII. Grading**
Grading will be broken down as follows: 35% for your strongest essay, 30% for your next best effort, and 25% for the essay which is least successful of the three. Participation in class and/or in Journal form will count 5% and the quiz will make up the remaining 5%.

**IX. Human Rights Web Site**
The Course will have its own Web Site in addition to the LATTE version. The Website is currently under construction. The Website will be open to the public and accessible.
from anywhere in the world that has an internet connection; so from Tibet, Vladivostok, Beijing, Paris, London and Cambridge, Massachusetts. Please feel free to share the web pages for Human Rights with friends around the world as well as with family and relatives. Paper topics will also be posted on the Course Web Site as well as in LATTE.

X. Films
A few films will be shown during the semester, among them, BREAKER MORANT, LONG NIGHT'S JOURNEY INTO DAY, GHOSTS OF RWANDA, and THE POLITICS OF FOOD.

XI. Small Group Discussions
In a course this large discussion groups can be very helpful. Occasional discussion sections will be scheduled especially after paper topics are handed out and before a paper is due. Discussion groups will give you an opportunity to explore some of the complex issues of the course in greater depth.

XII. Attendance
Attendance is required. You will be allowed two unexcused absences. Otherwise, if you miss a class, you will need a documented excuse. Any undocumented absences over and above the two unexcused absence will have an impact on your final grade. Since Brandeis allows a two week shopping period, the attendance requirement will not "kick in," until the start of the third week of classes.

XIII. Teaching Fellows
The Teaching Fellows assigned to the class will be primarily responsible for reading the papers and making comments on them as well as participating in and leading discussions on the readings and questions that come up in class. They will also be available to discuss the rewriting of one of your papers. I shall look at all the papers and rewrites before grades are handed out. If you are convinced an error has been made, first talk with the teaching fellow with whom you have been working. If you are still not satisfied, you may bring your paper to me.

XIV. Office Hours
I shall hold office hours from 1:10 to 2:00 PM on Wednesdays and Thursdays and by appointment. My office is located in RABB, Room 306 (Tel. 736-2789).

XV. Messages
If you wish to leave messages for me, the best way is via e-mail: “Andreas Teuber”
teuber@brandeis.edu.

Note: If you a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and you would like to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in PHIL 19A, please see me as soon as possible.