

HUMR4510 / Human rights, Politics, and Legitimacy / Exam Question Spring 2017

Several philosophers – including Charlez Beitz, Allen Buchanan and David Luban – build on descriptive accounts of international human rights practice in their normative discussion of how human rights can be justified.

Based on the readings on the syllabus, choose one of these authors (Beitz, Buchanan or Luban), discuss how his justificatory account of human rights builds on the descriptive account he gives of international human rights practice, assess critically whether his descriptive account of international human rights practice is adequate, and discuss which implications it would have for his discussion of the justification of human rights if his descriptive account is not adequate.

Students may supplement the readings on the syllabus with other references when writing their paper.