

Final examination essay for HUMR 5131 Autumn 2021

Deadline: November 19 at 1:00 PM

Maximum length (including footnotes): 4000 words

PLEASE ANSWER ONE OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. Philosophy of human rights

It is sometimes said: “There cannot be a human right to X, because that right would be too costly.” In your view, when we seek to justify a specific right, what is the relevance of the costs of that right?

Make use of relevant course readings in discussing the question.

2. Promoting Human Rights

Various works on your reading list discuss how and why human rights have acquired an ever more prominent role in international politics over the last 50 years or so--to the extent of applying concepts like 'revolution'. These works offer different explanations for this development, some of which may be said to complement each other whereas others seem to be differing or even conflicting. Discuss two or three explanations or perspectives on the role that human rights play in international politics and choose a political process to show the weak and strong points of the theories in question. The case you choose may be mostly internal (i.e., domestic political reform) or mostly external (the application of human rights in an international conflict).