

HR 215: History of Human Rights
Peter Rosenblum

International human rights is both young and old. The core ideas stretch back at least as far as the Enlightenment, but the founders of the modern movement are just reaching retirement. And while it is increasingly well established in international law, politics and the activities of nongovernmental organizations, there is still considerable debate over what human rights is and what it is intended to achieve: Is it a movement, an ideology or a set of laws? And is its purpose to pressure repressive countries, to provide a constitution for the world, or, more nefariously, to facilitate economic globalization? In the last decade, through books ranging from autobiographies to angry polemics, the debate has emerged in competing views about what constitutes the history of human rights. While telling the story of human rights, these histories also expose the tension and controversy that underlie the movement, itself. Readings will include founding figures of the modern movement like Louis Henkin and Aryeh Neier,, distinguished journalists like Adam Hochschild and historians Lynn Hunt, Samuel Moyn, Carol Anderson, Elizabeth Borgwardt, Ken Cmiel and more. *Class size:*
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