**Fair Play: Modern Heroes in the Quest for Human Rights**

The Arc of the Course

Week I: Introduction to the Seminar. The ideas of human rights and social justice. Early campaigns and evolution. Review of the lives of Sister Helen Prejean, Aung San Suu Kyi,, and Wangari Maathai. Watch video of fairness and primates <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=meiU6TxysCg> Discussion of essay, “Freedom from Fear.” Discussion of “Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Reading Assignment: Read *Death of Innocents,* Chapter 1 (pp. 1-53).

Optional: Watch film, *Dead Man Walking.*

Week 2: Review of story of Helen Prejean as seen in story of the prisoner Dobie Gillis Williams in *Death of Innocents.* Discussion of role of each member of the criminal justice system in the administration of justice. Discussion of Prejean’s role in the story. Discussion of role of citizen in the society when the justice system is not treating all citizens equally. Discussion of relation to current issues if of interest.

Reading Assignment: Read *Unbowed: A Memoir* (pp.184-276).

Optional: Watch film, *Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai.*

Week 3: Review of story of Wangari Maathai. Discussion of idea of environmental justice on an international stage. Discussion of rights and responsibilities across class and gender. Discussion of problem of corruption, immunity, and citizen responsibility. Discussion of issues in relation to contemporary events if appropriate and of interest.

Reading Assignment: Read *Voice of Hope* (Chapters 6-13—pp. 135-223). Optional: Watch film, *Burma VJ.*

Week 4: Review of story of Aung San Suu Kyi. Discussion of ideas of non-violence; loving one’s enemies, courage to face oneself as well as one’s adversary; and the power of powerlessness. Discussion of role of individual citizen in time of oppression and violence.

Reading Assignment: Read “Toward a True Refuge.”

Week 5: Summary and Concluding Discussion. Discussion of the differences in situations the advocates encounter—challenges and sought outcomes. Analyze what elements in approach are similar—empathy with people, courage, action, persistence.

**Required Readings:**

Aung San Suu Kyi, “Freedom from Fear:” <http://sites.asiasociety.org/asia21summit/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/1.-Aung-San-Suu-Kyi-Freedom-from-Fear.pdf>

“Universal Declaration of Human Rights:” <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

Aung San Suu Kyi, “Toward a True Refuge.” <http://www.birmaniademocratica.org/ViewDocument.aspx?docid=d0432457635a4287a672bc7df729613c>

Aung San Suu Kyi. *Voice of Hope: Conversations with Alan Clements.* Seven Story Press, 2008. **ISBN-10**: 1583228454; **ISBN-13**: 978-1583228456.

Maathai, Wangari. *Unbowed: A Memoir.* Knopf, 2007. **ISBN-10**: 0307275205;

**ISBN-13**: 987-0307275202

Prejean, Helen. *Death of Innocents: An Eyewitness Account of Wrongful Executions.* Vintage, 2006. **ISBN-10**\_0679759484; **ISBN-13**: 978-0679759485

**Related Readings:**

Aung San Suu Kyi. *Freedom from Fear: And Other Writings.* Penguin, 1993.

Hunt, Lynn. *Inventing Human Rights: A History.* Norton, 2008.

Maathai, Wangari. *The Challenge for Africa.* Anchor Books, 2010.

Miller, David. *Principles of Social Justice.* Harvard University Press, 2001.

Popham, Peter. *The Lady and the Peacock: The Life of Aung San Suu Kyi of Burma.* Rider, 2012.

Prejean, Helen. *Dead Man Walking,* An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States. Vintage, 1993.

Rawls, John. *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement.* Belknap Press, 2001.