This semester we will explore the issues of health in human rights crises; our scope is global (including the US, of course). We will set the stage with an introduction to human rights language and legal literature, examining the philosophical and historical roots of the concept of human rights as well as the documentation on current human rights law. With this background we can turn in the following weeks to specific provisions for protecting the health of people caught up in human rights crises. We will examine in depth the health dimensions of such human rights crises as war and armed conflict, displacement and migration, human trafficking, women’s human rights and reproductive justice, mental health, child health and the rights of prisoners. Each of you will select a human rights crisis to research and follow this semester.

Overview

Part 1
Week 1. Sept. 6 Introduction to health and human rights
Week 2. Sept. 13 The scope of health and human rights
Week 3. Sept. 20 Human rights and global health inequities
Week 4. Sept. 27 Health, human rights, war and armed conflict

Part 2
Week 5. Oct. 4 Human rights in wartime 1: health of civilians and fighters
Week 6. Oct. 11 Human rights in wartime 2: environmental destruction
Week 7. Oct. 18 Human rights in wartime 3: famine and food insecurity
Week 8. Oct. 25 Human rights in wartime 4: displacement; the refugee crises

Part 3
Week 9. Nov. 1 Mental health and human rights
Week 10. Nov. 8 Human trafficking
Week 11. Nov. 15 Migration – migrant workers’ health and rights
Week 12. Nov. 29 Incarceration -- prisoners’ health and rights; torture
Week 13. Dec. 6 Women’s human rights
Week 14. Dec. 13 Student presentations