



Dr. Janusz Korczak's Legacy: Children's Rights are Human Rights
An Interdisciplinary Foundation Course
INDS 502F
Fall Semester, September – December 2022

Mode of Delivery	Online
Time & Location	Mondays, 12:00 - 15:00
Instructors	<p>Dr. Nancy Bell, Adjunct Professor Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Program, University of British Columbia <i>Email:</i> nancy.bell@ubc.ca</p> <p>Dr. Lauryn Oates, Adjunct Professor Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Program, University of British Columbia <i>Email:</i> lauryn.oates@ubc.ca</p>

Course Overview

Description

Recognizing children as 'rights holders' - as social agents in their own right - has historical origins in the work of Dr. Janusz Korczak, an early 20th century pioneering child rights advocate. Dr. Korczak, a Polish-Jewish author, pediatrician and humanitarian, was an orphanage director from 1912 to 1942 who put his children's human rights beliefs into practice. In 1942, Dr. Korczak died, as he lived, alongside his orphanage children in the Treblinka death camp. Today, Dr. Korczak's 'child rights' are human rights - evolving concepts, laws and practices requiring adherence to such principles as inherent dignity, justice and equality for all. Yet, full implementation of children's human rights, which includes remedying human rights violations children experience in their everyday lives, remains a challenge.

Featuring Dr. Korczak's legacy, this course introduces students to the foundations of children's human rights by examining contexts within which those rights are situated. This course offers interdisciplinary graduate students an opportunity to advance their knowledge and identify research opportunities by exploring children's human rights' historical, socio-cultural, legal and institutional contexts as well as Korczak's enduring contributions to improving children's lives. The course proposes to critically examine relevant scholarly debates across disciplines, current issues, and implementation approaches, including those intended to remedy children's human rights violations while considering 'real world' practices and child-centred, rights-based approaches to domestic and global issues across disciplines. Course content includes lectures, case study analysis, discussion, guest speakers including scholars and practitioners, films and diverse readings. Students are encouraged to reflect upon children's embeddedness within all aspects of society and how child-centred research, policy and practice agendas, addressing critical societal issues, might take account of human rights and children's everyday world intersections with the ultimate goal of improving children's lives.

Learning Objectives

Students will have the opportunity to:

- develop foundational understandings about Dr. Korczak's influence and the historical, legal, institutional and cultural contexts within which children's human rights are situated
- gain critical knowledge about the interdisciplinary nature of children's human rights and their complexities
- learn about domestic/global challenges children face in realizing their human rights
- learn about various processes for remedies to children's human rights violations, and their strengths and weaknesses
- acquire knowledge about integrated, collaborative children's human rights approaches to research, policy and practice that contribute to improving children's lives within domestic and global contexts

Unit Descriptions & Schedule

Unit: Introduction	September 12, 2022
This unit offers instructors/students the opportunity to meet each other, share expectations for the course, and have a general introductory discussion about Dr. Janusz Korczak and children's human rights.	
Unit 1	September 19, 2022
Dr. Janusz Korczak, Concepts of Childhood, and Children's Human Rights This unit introduces students to Dr. Korczak, including his writings on children's human rights, his concepts of childhood, and his present-day influences. Guest speaker.	
Unit 2	September 26, 2022
Children's Human Rights and their Human Rights Framework This unit provides students with a foundational overview of children's human rights and how they are situated within the broader human rights legal framework.	
Unit 3	October 3, 2022
Introduction to UN Convention on the Rights of the Child This unit introduces students to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, its Protocols and the role of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Guest speaker.	
Unit 4	October 11, 2022
Children's Human Rights: Implementation, Monitoring and Accountability This unit examines children's human rights themes relating to implementation, monitoring and accountability.	
Unit 5	October 17, 2022
Children's Human Rights: Seeking Remedies for Human Rights Violations This unit critically explores themes related to children claiming human rights violations and domestic/international processes for seeking remedies. It will examine human rights violations involving Indigenous children who sought accountability and remedies through their complaint to the Canadian Human Rights Commission.	
Unit 6	October 24, 2022

Children’s Human Rights in Action: Children in Emergency Situations	
This unit examines human rights issues pertaining to groups of children in emergency situations, such as children in conflict zones, children involved in forced migration, children affected by natural disasters, and children requiring special protections.	
Unit 7	October 31, 2022
Children’s Human Rights in Action: Inequities and Exclusion	
This unit focuses on rights issues and violations facing specific groups of children, including sex and gender-based human rights issues, children in minority populations who face identity-based exclusions, and children in conditions that render them vulnerable.	
Term Break	November 7, 2022
Unit 8	November 14, 2022
Children’s Human Rights in Action: Violence Against Children	
This unit examines case studies related to children’s human rights violations such as violence against children, and explores the emergence of a civil sector focused on protecting children’s human rights within international development and effective practices within this sector.	
Class Presentations	November 21, 2022
<i>See Assignment 2 description.</i>	
Unit 9	November 28, 2022
Future Directions in Children’s Human Rights	
Provides opportunities for students to discuss future directions in children’s human rights and where opportunities might exist to better address problems relating to children’s human rights realization, highlighting how research can inform practice.	
Unit 10	December 5, 2022
Synthesis	
Review and synthesis of key course themes and discussion of how course learning can be applied.	

Course Evaluation

Assignment	Grade (%)
Assignment 1: Paper proposal (individual)	20%
Assignment 2: Presentation (group)	15%
Assignment 3: Final paper - (individual)	40%
Participation (individual)	25%
Total %	100%