

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Course #187:175

Spring 2004

*Child Labor
&
International Human Rights*

MONDAY , 6:00-8:30 PM

ROOM E-105 SEASHORE

Instructors

Professor Rex Honey	Ms. Chivy W. Sok
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305 Jessup Hall	UI Center for Human Rights
Hours: Mon, 4-5:30 pm; Tue - 10:30-12 noon; Fri - 2-3 pm	300 Communication Center
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Child Labor & International Human Rights

The University of Iowa

Spring 2004

COURSE DESCRIPTION

According to the ILO's global estimate in 2000, approximately 246 million children, ages 5 to 17, engage in child labor. An estimated 171 million children work in hazardous conditions. Approximately 73 million working children are below the age of ten. The Asian Pacific region has the largest number of child workers between 5-14 years of age (127 million). Sub-Saharan Africa has the second largest concentration of child workers (48 million) and is followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (17 million). The Middle East and North Africa has approximately 13 million child workers and the other 5 million children can be found in both developed and transitional economies. Some of these children work part-time and go to school. Some perform light chores and help out their families. Many, however, toil in appalling conditions, are physically and emotionally abused, and are ruthlessly exploited to perform dangerous jobs with little or no pay.

The goal of this course is to examine the complexity of child labor in the global, regional, national, and local contexts. Students will engage in readings and discussions to understand the magnitude of child labor around the world. They will study the international human rights system and processes designed to promote and protect everyone's human rights, including children, by reading original treaties and conventions. Students will also study and evaluate organizations, programs and strategies to eliminate abusive and exploitative child labor.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

25% - Class Participation (reading assignments, attendance, discussions, presentations)

20% - Midterm Paper

15% - Website Review

40% - Final Paper

EXPECTATIONS

Students are responsible for completing all reading assignments in the syllabus prior to the start of each seminar and are expected to actively participate in class discussions. Those who consistently fail to complete reading assignments will have points deducted from the final grade.

The course is run in accordance with the rules of the University of Iowa and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Hence, each student should expect to commit nine hours of work each week to the course, three hours for each semester hour of credit. Students with learning disabilities should inform the instructors so that appropriate arrangements can be made to assure each student an appropriate opportunity to learn the material. If for any reason a student is unhappy with the class, the student should address the issue with the instructors. If that does not provide a satisfactory remedy, the student should meet with Prof. Christopher Roy, Associate Dean of International Programs. An appointment can be arranged with Prof. Roy through Blythe Burkhardt. Her email address is Blythe-Burkhardt@uiowa.edu, and her telephone number is 335-1436. Academic fraud is a serious offense and will result in a failing grade in the course and possible expulsion from the University of Iowa.

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Craig Kielburger, Free the Children, Harper Perennial, 1998
2. Jerry Piasecki, Marie: In the Shadow of the Lion, United Nations, 2001
3. Reading Packet

A NOTE ON COURSE FORMAT

The success of this course is heavily dependent on student participation. There will be some lectures by instructors to bring up issues that may not be presented in the assigned readings but might be important for providing context or comparison for class discussions.

SEMESTER OUTLINE

Week 1: January 26 (Meaning, Nature, History, and Scope of Child Labor)

Week 2: February 2 (Meaning, Nature, History, and Scope of Child Labor)

Week 3: February 9 (Meaning, Nature, History, and Scope of Child Labor)

Week 4: February 16 (Meaning, Nature, History, and Scope of Child Labor)

Week 5: February 23 (Human Rights & Children's Rights)

Week 6: March 1 (Human Rights & Children's Rights)

Week 7: March 8 (Human Rights & Children's Rights) – Midterm Paper Due

Week 8: *Spring Break March 15-21*

Week 9: March 22 (Human Rights & Children's Rights)

Week 10: March 29 (Child Labor, Multinational Corporations and International Trade)

Week 11: April 5 (Strategies to Combat Abusive and Exploitative Child Labor)

Week 12: April 12 (Strategies to Combat Abusive and Exploitative Child Labor)

Week 13: April 19 (Strategies to Combat Abusive and Exploitative Child Labor)

Week 14: April 26 (Strategies to Combat Abusive and Exploitative Child Labor)

Week 15: May 3 (Strategies to Combat Abusive and Exploitative Child Labor)

Week 16: May 12 (Final Exam Week) – Final Paper Due

MEANING, NATURE, HISTORY, AND SCOPE AND OF CHILD LABOR

What is a child? How is it defined? How is childhood viewed by different cultures? What is work? What is child work? What is child labor? What is the difference between these two terms and why do we need to differentiate? Why is there child labor? What types of child labor exists? Where do they exist? When is work acceptable for a child and when is it not? When is work helpful or harmful to a child's development? What is meant by the worst forms of child labor? Who defines them and what are the policy implications? How does gender factor into the problem? Why do we need to focus on the specific problem of the "girl child?" What are the different historical and cultural interpretations of child labor? We will learn about the history and examine some of the causes of child labor. Students will examine a range of experiences and conditions in different parts of the world to gain insights into the nature and magnitude of the problem in the first four weeks as a base of our discussion for the rest of the semester.

Week 1 (January 26)

Hugh Cunningham, "The Rights of the Child and the Wrongs of Child Labour: Historical Perspectives" in Lieten & White Child Labour: Policy Options pp. 13-26 (Reading Packet)

Craig Kielburger, Free the Children, Chapters 1-4

Video, "It Takes a Child"

Week 2 (February 2)

Hannah Lapp, "Child Labor is Beneficial" in Mary E. Williams (ed) Child Labor and Sweatshops (Reading Packet)

Kevin Bales, Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy, Chapter 1, "New Slavery" (Reading Packet)

Kevin Bales, Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy, Chapter 2, "Thailand: Because She Looks Like a Child" (Reading Packet)

Kevin Bales, Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy, Chapter 6 "The Ploughman's Lunch" (Reading Packet)

ILO, "Every Child Counts: New Global Estimates on Child Labor" (Aprils 2002). Available at: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipecc/simpoc/others/globalest.pdf>
Read pp. 1-36. (Reading Packet)

Craig Kielburger, Free the Children, Chapters 5-8

WEEK 3 (February 9)

Save the Children, "Position Paper on Children and Work" (Reading Packet).

William E. Myers, "Valuing diverse approaches to child labour" in Lieten & White Child Labour: Policy Options pp. 27-48 (Reading Packet)

Craig Kielburger, Free the Children, Chapters 9-12

Jerry Piasecki, Marie: In the Shadow of the Lion

Week 4 (February 16)

Human Rights Watch, Tainted Harvest: Child Labor and Obstacles to Organizing on Ecuador's Banana Plantations, New York, 2002, read section on child labor, pp. 20-55. Also available at: <http://hrw.org/reports/2002/ecuador/> (Reading Packet)

Global March Against Child Labor articles on the girl child (Reading Packet)

"Invisible Girls"

"Ending the Exploitation of Girls Labour"

"Invisible Girls, Invisible Work"

Available at: <http://globalmarch.org/girlchild/index.html>

UNICEF, "Girls Left Out, Countries Left Behind," in *State of the World's Children 2004*, pp. 31-41.

Nelien Haspels, Marinka Romeijn and Susanne Schroth, "Promoting Gender Equality in Action Against Child Labour: A Practical Guide, ILO Bangkok (2001) (Reading Packet). Please read pp. 1-11 for overview of issues specific to the girl child and women. Available at: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipecc/publ/gender/gender.pdf>

Peter Doorman, "Child Labour in the Developed Economies" (ILO/IPEC Working Paper), 2001, pp. 1-58 (Reading Packet). Also available at: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipecc/publ/policy/papers/brasil/fourth.pdf>

Craig Kielburger, Free the Children, Chapters 13-16

HUMAN RIGHTS AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS (4 WEEKS)

The next four weeks will be dedicated to learning about international human rights. Students will study international treaties and conventions and ask a number of questions related to this topic. How are they enforced? Are human rights culturally specific or are they universal? Are there specific conventions and treaties that can be used to promote and protect working children? Why and how is child labor a violation of human rights?

Week 5 (February 23)

Louis Henkin, "Introduction: The Human Rights Idea" pp. 1-10 (Reading Packet)

Burns H. Weston, "Human Rights" in *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 2002 edition (Reading Packet). A PDF version is available at the UICHR website: <http://www.uichr.org/features/eb/index.shtml>

International Bill of Rights

Note: All treaties can be downloaded from the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights website: <http://www.unhchr.ch/>. You should thoroughly familiarize yourself with the different sections related to children's rights. It is a very useful resource for finding treaties, reports, and other documents related to children and child labor. For all conventions, click on "TREATIES."

Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Adopted, 10 Dec 1948 (Reading Packet)
Also available at: <http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr/lang/eng.htm>

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Concluded, 16 Dec 1966; Entered into force, 3 Jan 1976. (Reading Packet)

Also available at: http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/a_ceschr.htm

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Concluded, 16 Dec 1966; Entered into force, 23 Mar 1976. (Reading Packet)

Also available at: http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/a_ccpr.htm

Week 6 (March 1)

Guest speaker: Professor Burns H. Weston (to be confirmed)

Children's Conventions, Declarations, and Protocols

Convention on the Rights of the Child. Concluded, 20 Nov 1989; Entered into force, 2 Sep 1990. (Reading Packet)

Also available at: <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/6/crc/treaties/crc.htm>

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. Concluded, 25 May 2000. Entered into force, 12 Feb 2002. (Reading Packet) Also available at:

<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/6/crc/treaties/opac.htm>

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Concluded, 25 May 2000. Entered into force, 18 Jan 2002. Available at: <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/6/crc/treaties/opsc.htm>

Cynthia Price Cohen, "United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: Developing International Norms to Create a New World for Children" in Klug and Alaimo (eds) Children as Equals (2002) (Reading Packet)

Adam Lopatka, "The Convention on the Rights of the Child" in Transnational Law & Contemporary Problems (Volume 6, Number 2, Fall 1996), pp. 251-262 (Reading Packet)

Marilia Sardenberg, "Committee on the Rights of the Child: Basic Processes" in Transnational Law & Contemporary Problems (Volume 6, Number 2, Fall 1996), pp. 263-286 (Reading Packet)

Week 7 (March 8)

Essay: Midterm paper due at beginning of class.

Amnesty International, "Fact Sheet on the ILO" (Reading Packet). Also available on the internet at:

<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGIOR420042002?open&of=ENG-393>

ILO Convention (No. 182) Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Concluded, 17 Jun 1999; Entered into force, 19 Nov 2000. (Reading Packet). Available at: <http://ilolex.ilo.ch:1567/english/convdisp1.htm>.

ILO Convention (No. 138) Concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment ("Minimum Age Convention"). Concluded, 26 Jun 1973; Entered into force, 19 Jun 1976. (Reading Packet). Also available at: <http://ilolex.ilo.ch:1567/english/convdisp1.htm>.

ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-Up (Reading Packet)

Week 8 (March 15-21) -- SPRING BREAK

Week 9 (March 22)

President Bill Clinton, Address at the ILO's International Labour Conference, 87th Session, June 1999. (Reading Packet) Also available online at:

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/ilc/ilc87/a-clinto.htm>

OECD, International Trade and Core Labour Standards, Read Part I "Labour Standards in OECD and Selected Non-OECD Countries" (pp. 17-30) (Reading Packet)

Haspels & Jankanish, Chapter 2, "Towards improved legislation" pp. 43-80. (Reading Packet)

William E. Myers, "The Right Rights? Child Labor in a Globalizing World" Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 575, pp. 38-55 (Reading Packet)

CHILD LABOR, MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS & INTERNATIONAL TRADE (1 WEEK)

Trade and multinational corporations play important roles in society. International trade is an engine of economic growth and prosperity. But is it also a source of child labor? If so, what are the implications? What are the responsibilities of powerful organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), NAFTA and other regional bodies? Multinational corporations have vast power and resources. But corporations are part of the private sector and therefore out of reach of human rights treaties and conventions? Or are they? Students will explore the relationship between business and human rights as it relates to child labor.

Week 10 (March 29)

"Corporate America on the Hot Seat" (Chapter 1) in Pamela Varley (ed) The Sweatshop Quandary: Corporate Responsibility on the Global Frontier (Reading Packet)

ICFTU Press Release, "Multinationals under scrutiny by the international labour movement," released on 5/4/2001. (Reading Packet) Available at:

<http://www.icftu.org/displaydocument.asp?Index=991212643&Language=EN>

Sarah Bachman, "The Political Economy of Child Labor and Its Impact on International Business" in Business Economics: The Journal of the National Association of Business Economists, 35 (3), 30-41. (Reading Packet) Available at:

http://www.findarticles.com/cf_1/m1094/3_35/64396571/print.jhtml

Tom Harkin, "The United States Should Ban Imports of Products Made by Children" in Mary E. Williams (ed) Child Labor and Sweatshops (Reading Packet)

Representative Jim Moran, "Iqbal Masih and the Crusade Against Child Labor" – Special Order Speeches – April 17, 1997. Available at: <http://www.house.gov/moran/iqbal.htm>

International Council on Human Rights, Beyond Volunteerism, Chapter 5 "Direct Obligations: Duties on Companies" (Reading Packet)

STRATEGIES TO COMBAT ABUSIVE AND EXPLOITATIVE CHILD LABOR (5 WEEKS)

Child labor is a complex problem and there is no single right answer. Efforts to address this global problem require innovative strategies and the ability to think outside the box. The last five weeks will be dedicated to examining different approaches and programs aimed at reducing and eliminating child labor. We will look at a diverse set of actors, including international organizations, inter-governmental organizations, national governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private sector initiatives. Students should review their discussion notes on the Kielburger book from the first half of the semester. The international community recognizes that it is critical to include voices of children into any discussion and policy recommendation. Free the Children provides useful insights into this process and will be referred to throughout the last part of the semester.

Week 11 (April 5)

William E. Myers, "Considering Child Labour: Changing terms, issues and actors at the international level" in Childhood, pp. 13-26 (Reading Packet)

Review websites of the following international organizations to understand their missions, programs and priorities.

- ILO's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC).
<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipec/>
- UNICEF <http://www.unicef.org/>
- World Bank <http://www1.worldbank.org/sp/childlabor/>
- Other relevant UN agencies

Students will work in groups to make class presentation on each organization.

The U.S. Government is also an actor in the global effort to combat child labor. Review the U.S. Department of Labor's International Child Labor Program at <http://www.dol.gov/ILAB/programs/iclp/main.htm>

Week 12 (April 12)

Jensen, R. "Mainstreaming Gender into the International Program on Child Labor: IPEC" (2001). (Reading Packet) Also available at:
<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipec/publ/gender/jensen.pdf>

World Declaration on Education For All (Reading Packet). Also available at:
<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/skills/recomm/publ/036.htm>

Martin Woodhead, "The value of work and school: A study of working children's perspectives" in Lieten & White Child Labour: Policy Options, pp. 103-116 (Reading Packet)

Per Miljeteig, "Establishing partnerships with working children and youth: Implications for research" in Lieten & White Child Labour: Policy Options pp. 117-130. (Reading Packet)

Week 13 (April 19)

U.S. Department of Labor, The Apparel Industry and Codes of Conduct: A Solution to International Child Labor Problem? (1996). Read Chapters I (Introduction on pp. 1-8), Chapter II (Codes of Conduct in the U.S. Apparel Industry, pp. 11-65) (Reading Packet). A PDF is available at:
<http://www.dol.gov/ILAB/media/reports/iclp/apparel/overview.htm>

"Corporations Grapple with Codes of Conduct" (Chapter 11) in Pamela Varley (ed) The Sweatshop Quandary: Corporate Responsibility on the Global Frontier (Reading Packet)

Bob Jeffcott and Lynda Yanz, "Voluntary Codes of Conduct: Do They Strengthen or Undermine Government Regulation and Worker Organizing?" (Reading Packet)

Elliot Schrage, "Addressing Child Labor in Cote d'Ivoire Cocoa Production" in Promoting International Worker Rights Through Private Voluntary Initiatives: A Report to the U.S. Department of State, pp. 131-163 (Reading Packet). Also available at: http://www.uichr.org/content/act/sponsored/gwri_report.pdf

Janet Hilowitz, "Labelling Child Labour Products: A Preliminary Study," Read Part One on "Social Labelling as a way of combating Child Labour" (Reading Packet) Available at: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipecc/publ/policy/papers/labelling/part1.htm>

Week 14 (April 26)

Guest speaker: Jennifer Sherer/or Robin Clark Bennett of the UI Labor Center (to be confirmed) on the role of trade unions in combating child labor.

Haspels & Jankanish, Chapter 6: "Strategies for Employers and their Organizations", pp. 221-246 (Reading Packet)

Haspels & Jankanish, Chapter 7: "Trade Unions Against Child Labor" (Reading Packet)

*Note: Additional readings will be assigned after consultation with confirmed guest speaker.

Week 15 (May 3 - Last class)

Guest speaker: Beverly Witwer and Spencer Lundquist on the role of secondary school teachers and students

Shahidul Alam, "Efforts to Ban Goods Made by Children are Counterproductive" in Mary E. Williams (ed) Child Labor and Sweatshops (Reading Packet)

Linda F. Golodner, "Consumer Pressure Can Reduce the Use of Sweatshops" in Mary E. Williams (ed) Child Labor and Sweatshops (Reading Packet)

*Note: Additional readings may be assigned after consultation with confirmed speaker

Week 16 (May 12) FINAL EXAM WEEK – FINAL PAPER DUE

Your **final paper** is due by 5 PM on Monday, May 10, 2004. Please drop off your paper to Professor Honey's office in Room 305 Jessup Hall.