

# HST 203: History of the United States Sp14 (Escobar Meta 41237 41238)

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Forum 4 ► Rights, Rights, and More Rights

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## Forum 4

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### Rights, Rights, and More Rights

by Joe Escobar - Thursday, May 22, 2014, 8:45 AM

This forum thread is for the Rights, Rights, and More Rights discussion.

After studying the required materials, address the questions in your posts.

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post.

To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Rights, Rights, and More Rights

Sum of ratings: -

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### What are rights, really?

by Serena Williams - Monday, May 26, 2014, 8:40 PM

I never thought about rights in such detail before reading the information on these forum posts. I had no idea there was so much to them and it doesn't really cross my mind on a daily basis about what "rights" I have and do not have compared to other people. I feel like after reading the information that humans do have some rights. One thing that I found odd was that in class we talked about how during the war you couldn't talk bad about anything involving the war without being penalized. And that was conflicting with our "freedom of speech" which was interesting to me that our rights are basically privileges depending on the circumstances. I don't think it would still be that way today though. Rights are very difficult to define because there will always be exceptions to every situation. The second cartoon about illegal immigrants protesting about being second class citizens made me giggle a little because Lady Liberty crossed out second class so it read "We are not citizens" on the poster. I found it funny because it's true and I agree with the cartoon. Why should illegal immigrants get the same rights as citizens? Either way, it is hard to get a solid

definition for rights.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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### Our Rights

by Connor McCabe - Tuesday, May 27, 2014, 8:15 AM

As Americans we don't really put to thought how lucky we really are that we have the rights we have. We don't realize that what we see as rights simply because we are human beings are not rights in many countries. We don't respect or revere our rights the way we should. We are very lucky to have them and we should be grateful of their existence.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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### Re: Our Rights

by Daniel Halverson - Tuesday, May 27, 2014, 8:32 AM

I agree that living in America does give people rights that other countries citizens do not have. One thing I think is different though, I don't believe that every person in America is entitled to the same rights due to other factors such as race. As personally being African-American, for my dad growing up he wasn't entitled the same "rights" as the other white Americans up until somewhat recent history. Although America may be a nation that has been the most free and granted rights, those rights and that freedom was not initially granted to everyone living in America.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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### take it or leave it

by Morgan Reid - Tuesday, May 27, 2014, 11:37 AM

Before reading this forum, I had never really thought about how complex our "rights" can sometimes be. Sure, we have the right to freedom of speech, but more times than not, there's going to be circumstances and/or exceptions to the actions we consider to be our "rights". That being said, we are lucky to have the rights we do, considering that isn't the case all around the globe.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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### Problems of knowing and understanding rights.

by Katie Birrenkott - Wednesday, May 28, 2014, 8:33 PM

Every human has rights, the only problem with that is a matter of defining and translating what those rights are. For instance having the right to pursue happiness does not mean you can break the law in order to pursue it. Therefore the "slippery slope" comes along with knowing and understanding what those rights are.

An example from my own personal life is from my days in yearbook understanding the rights to people's privacy and knowing what can and cannot be published with or without a person's consent to do so. Another would be working as a caregiver and knowing what our resident's rights are. Any chance of breaking either of these examples results in action by the law.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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### different understandings



by Kenzie Hazen - Thursday, May 29, 2014, 10:22 AM

I most definitely agree with wikipedia's definitions of "rights." I don't think a lot of people realize how many rights we do have in America, and I think that a lot of people definitely take advantage of all of the rights we have in America. In other countries they have nowhere near the amount of rights we have here. I think that we definitely possess rights, it's just that some people take our rights for advantage. Rights are for sure a "slippery slope" because I think that race has a huge effect on rights. I know that a lot of people would disagree with me but it is true. I know they have made many changes to the rights of different races but I still think some people use race against them, or their background.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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### Re: different understandings



by Katie Birrenkott - Thursday, May 29, 2014, 8:11 PM

As for other races having different rights, I would just like to mention that Native Americans definitely have different rights than others, however it is much more favorable towards them than others. Because of the years Native Americans were mistreated they are now rewarded plentiful for it. For instance, you may only be 1/32nd of a Native, but you can get large amounts of benefits, including free dental and multiple scholarships. These are all a part of their rights, which largely differ from those who are not Natives.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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### Re: different understandings



by Destaney Jefferson - Saturday, May 31, 2014, 8:05 PM

I would have to disagree. Native Americans don't get a plentiful of "social" rights. They had their land taken away, forced to conform to our way of living. Religion, etc. In turn we give them small amounts of land to find salvation on. It saddens me. So many people can claim those benefits, those who are very little Native receive these benefits get looked at by those who are more Native and are discriminated against. It's a double edged sword really. We are discriminated by gender, race, sexual orientation, etc. It's all around us and will hardly ever go

away....in entirety

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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### Re: different understandings



by Daniel Halverson - Saturday, May 31, 2014, 10:31 PM

I would agree with you to a certain extent that Native Americans fall into a different category with what they have rights to do, but as far as being compensated for the way they were treated, race wise African Americans have not been paid back very much for the way they were treated. I am in no way saying what happened to one race was worse than the other, but African Americans had to fight a longer amount of time for their rights to even be recognized on the same level as white people.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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### Equal Rights



by Miranda Townsend - Friday, May 30, 2014, 5:08 PM

We do enjoy and may even take for granted many rights here in the US in this day and age. However, we do see significant gaps in the rights extended to different individuals.

One prime example of this is the rights, or lack there of, regarding same sex marriage. This is also a very relevant issue facing change right now, seeing how an Oregon judge just ruled in favor of same sex marriage. I personally feel like this is a huge step in the right direction towards true equal rights for all.

There are now people opposing this ruling that are fighting to have a "stay" be put in place. so no more couples can be wed until after the appeals are resolved. I think this is a shame, and I hope the right to marry is soon extended to all.



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### Re: Equal Rights

by Serena Williams - Saturday, May 31, 2014, 8:52 PM

I love that you posted about this seeing as it is an issue we are dealing with right now today. I was so happy to hear that an Oregon judge was in favor of same-sex marriage but when I read your post I had no idea that people were opposing and trying to put a "stay" on it. Same-sex couples along with everyone else deserve to have the exact same rights and it disgusts me that this is still a problem that people won't get over.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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### Rights Take Work

by Kira Iantorno - Friday, May 30, 2014, 7:46 PM

The concept of rights is sometimes bit romanticised, in that we believe we will always have them and that they will never change. The truth though, is that our rights take work to maintain and to keep them updated. The government is always evolving, and this causes the government to sometimes lose perspective on what is important. The effects of the cold war and war on terror gave our government a fresh new view on what the right to privacy meant. If they keep us "safe" do they have the right to view our emails or listen to our phone calls? When does protection become fascism? I ask because this is the slippery slope of our government, the more power we give the government to well govern, the more rights the American people will lose. I am not an anarchist in any way but I do believe it is the

responsibility of the American people to tell our government when they have crossed a line. The wiki definition explains:

“However, rights must be understood by someone in order to have legal existence, so the understanding of rights is a social prerequisite for the existence of rights. Therefore, educational opportunities within society have a close bearing upon the people's ability to erect adequate rights structures.”

It is the responsibility of the people to be educated and vocal about existing rights, the need for new rights, and the ability to enforce them if ever ignored by the government or the people. Net neutrality is one of the biggest issues of our time yet most haven't even heard of it. The actual responsibility of being educated about their rights and issues that may affect them in the near future is lost in many ways today. We like to view most issues of today as conspiracies or fictional than try to understand them. Like with net neutrality we would like to think we will always have internet, where even the craziest person or most uneducated can put their views out to be seen. Yet in five years time, wikis and other free to use web sites may not even exist. The internet will become another way for the person with the most money to decide what will be viewed and who can and can't have “fast” internet. Is this a right being taken away? Should we be taking a closer look before we give the internet away to the highest bidder? This is issue with corporations and their effect on rights but its not only the government and big business that is threatening them.

Today I see the American people causing a lot of harm to our “rights”, For example the CEO of Mozilla, Duck Dynasty, and most recently the owner of the Clippers have had property taken and asked to resign or threatened to lose their jobs because of something they had said. While freedom of speech does not entitle you to keep your job when you speak your opinion, it is a bit disconcerting that the American people feel it right to shut down anybody that speaks against the loudest voice. What we allow to happen in society, such as shunning unpopular opinions, will eventually give precedence for government participation.

Don't misunderstand my point, I am for gay marriage and Donald Sterling is a total racist, although it may feel like the right thing to do. This type of reaction may equate to the loss of the American voices. I once did a speech on how political correctness will eventually stagnate our country and this is what the beginnings of that looks like. It causes fear for an individual to speak when their opinion differs from the crowd. Do “bad” people still have rights, or uneducated people, or anybody when not a part of the inner circle.

For example, personally I think climate change is real, yet that does not mean I am going to make sure others with different options are silenced. I want to keep that door open so if new information arises that can better the situation, I can be educated about it. I think in that age of technology we are quick to dismiss people without taking responsibility of our actions. That we are becoming less educated because our feelings are hurt. If we as individuals want our rights respected then we should maintain the rights of others despite who they are or what they say. Like in class when Escobar was talking about the KKK and whether or not they should have free speech; many people were offended by what they stood for and because of that were more than willing to say the KKK should be “silenced”.

We like to hang on the issue of who deserves rights more than understand and enforce them. Reading many of the responses in the forum I saw “As Americans we don't really put to thought how lucky we really are that we have the rights we have.” and I agree that we don't, because we are too busy making sure we don't give them to certain people.

Immigrants, African Americans, women, the list goes on and on. Most of American history is the battle over who gets these rights and who doesn't. If we don't put the thought into how much work (not luck) we put into having the rights we have today, we will lose them and it will be no fault but our own.

"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves." - Abraham Lincoln

"Rights are won only by those who make their voices heard." - Harvey Milk

This post was a bit dark so here is a rap video about net neutrality. Thank you for reading my thoughts on this topic.



Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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### Women Equality



by Destaney Jefferson - Friday, May 30, 2014, 9:06 PM

Some of our "Civil Rights" that we are supposedly supposed to be innate to us haven't always been there for some individuals in many cases concerning peoples race,gender,religious preference,sexual orientation. I feel as American's we have come a long way since those who came before us. Those who have fought the endless fight of finding ways to climb up this "Slippery slope". Rights are a very touchy subject. They aren't really something we are born knowing of, they aren't something we study with such great detail and focus on. There are so many "Rights" that we have as citizens but we must go out and dig them up. For example the Declaration of Independence stated "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all **men** are created equal,that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights,that among these rights are Life,Liberty and the

pursuit of Happiness" I see that they use the term "MEN" this goes to lead us to believe that women were never supposed to be given these rights, and the Declaration of Independence was written up by all men. This brings women to struggle with their equality among men for centuries even after it was written up. We as women were never given the chance. Today we are still struggling with women's equality. Hilary Clinton spoke as part of the World Affairs Council of Oregon's international speaker series featuring women changing the world stated "... Empowering women, Clinton said, isn't only moral and just but also an economic imperative. But she also said the United States and the rest of the developed world need to improve as well, pointing to the gap between wages for women and men." (<http://www.oregonherald.com/oregon/local.cfm?id=6378>)

We in Oregon have a petition going around to get this put onto the ballot in November 2014. We have been struggling since the 1970's / and the 1980's to get this put into action. The ERA was originally written in 1923, It has been 91 years and we still do not have equal rights. The ERA states, "Equality of Rights under the law shall NOT be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex." We don't have equality in our Oregon Constitution or for that matter our U.S. Constitution. This ERA has been introduced to Congress since 1923 and has not passed. Today, the majority of our Oregon Congressional delegation is sponsoring federal ERA bills so women can gain equality in our U.S. Constitution. I urge you if you have not already signed this petition to please do so (<http://www.voteera.org/#!untitled/c1ujc>)

This "slippery slope" we are slowly overcoming, we are making the world a slightly better place for younger generations. But we will never get rid of all our problems. We learn from our past and try making things more equal, but you can kill a man but not an idea. Those ideals of our past will forever be instilled no matter how wrong they may be....



Sum of ratings:3 (1)



### Re: Women Equality

by Katie Birrenkott - Friday, May 30, 2014, 10:57 PM

I would just like to share with you the definition of "man" from dictionary.com.

#### man

<sup>1</sup> [man] Show IPA

noun, plural men.

1.

an adult male person, as distinguished from a boy or a woman.

2.

a member of the species Homo sapiens or all the members of this species collectively

3.

the human individual as representing the species, without reference to sex; the human

4.

a human being; person: to give a man a chance; When the audience smelled the sm

5.

a husband.

By highlighting the definitions of "man", or the plural "men", I'm just informing you that the use in the Declaration is not the adult male person, but as a human being, and therefore we are all guaranteed these rights under the Declaration.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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### Re: Women Equality

by Destaney Jefferson - Saturday, May 31, 2014, 7:45 PM

Is this the very dictionary that those who wrote the Declaration read and understood that was the definition of "man" Things get taken out of context a word can be misinterpreted for example. Thanks for your definition though it's appreciated.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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### Re: Women Equality

by Blake Taylor - Saturday, May 31, 2014, 2:59 PM

Destaney, thank you so much for bringing up the ERA. Despite the fact that we have

broadened the population who can receive those rights, we continue to deny rights to women and the homosexual community. My rule of thumb is that if heterosexual, white men have always received a right, then that right should be applied to all. Obviously, we still have a ways to go. And Katie, certainly by Week 9 of this class, you understand that when it was written, the Declaration of Independence definitely did not refer to everybody when they used the word "man," right? And if you think that by today's standards it does, can you explain why it's still legal to pay a woman less than a man for the exact same work?

Sum of ratings: (1)

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### Re: Women Equality

by Destaney Jefferson - Saturday, May 31, 2014, 7:55 PM

Blake you are welcome! I have to agree that we should have the same rights the fact is we don't. All we can do is band together and stand strong to fight this fight in order to "earn" rights that should have already been ours! I wish I knew why it was legal to pay women less so if anyone knows please inform me. I don't feel equal by all means. I don't have Girl Power! On my wrists for nothing. We still are in the struggle.... Those who fought before us would be proud of where we are. But those true warriors would still want us to advocate and keep going!

Sum of ratings: (1)

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### Re: Women Equality

by Ren Rasmussen - Saturday, May 31, 2014, 9:50 PM

As a guy looking at women's right is going to be much different than any women looking at women's rights. Since I have not had to experience of it I cant fully understand but I can recognizing that women are still not as equal as men in our society. When regarding pay I dont think that this will get resolved any time soon. Companies can get around this due to what they consider is adequate pay for the work done. Other than minimum pay private companies can set what to pay all individual more or less even if they do the same job.

I really got a kick out of the cartoon.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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### Re: Women Equality

by Daniel Halverson - Saturday, May 31, 2014, 11:08 PM

I couldn't have said this better myself. Men looking into women's rights is challenging because men have not had to fight and struggle to be equal to the other gender. In terms of wages, sadly I would have to say that I also believe that pay will not be equal for men and women soon because like you said there is too many ways to get around having the wages be equal. In some ways having

wages different could hurt in the long run for example if you have a hard working woman making less money than a lazy man who doesn't work hard but makes more money, the company or place that they work for will take a hit as well with less quality work being done. Race, gender, social ranking, or anything else should not be the reason why someone is paid more or less. The best qualified person to fit the job should be the one making the most money hands down.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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### Inalienable and bestowed by our Creator



by Blake Taylor - Saturday, May 31, 2014, 2:48 PM

Despite being specifically enumerated in our Constitution, rights are kind of a nebulous concept. Obviously, since the birth of our country, we have expanded rights to a wider segment of our population, but there always seems to be a certain members of our society who insist that they should have more rights than others. It's may be threatening to think that even those with whom you are totally morally and philosophically opposed have the exact same rights that you do, but I think that it speaks to our communal trust of each other that almost every year, these rights are applied to more and more people (gay marriage in Oregon and other states, for example.) As the reading emphasized, with rights come responsibility, and we certainly see those who take advantage of them - the 1st and 2nd Amendments specifically, it seems - but I'm proud to live in a society where, for example, the right to an education is a reality. Perhaps if we looked at these rights more as privileges, we would take better care of them.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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### Re: Inalienable and bestowed by our Creator



by Serena Williams - Saturday, May 31, 2014, 8:42 PM

Your last sentence, "Perhaps if we looked at these rights more as privileges, we would take better care of them." really stuck out to me. I completely agree and believe this as well. In our country we are so blessed to have the things we get just by living here. Like you said, one of the examples of that is education. Not every country has that right and we take advantage of this all the time.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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### Re: Inalienable and bestowed by our Creator



by Daniel Halverson - Saturday, May 31, 2014, 10:50 PM

I agree and like the points that you made. When talking about people or a society thinking they deserve more rights than another, I look at that as a society or group of people trying to gain more power than others because they may feel it is owed to them. One thing that I would say contributes a huge part to this is the fact of history and how rights have not always been equal for every group or race and when it has

never been that way, it makes it that much more harder to get it to that stage. Even if everything was equal throughout all societies, races, countries ect. I think it would be hard because we would not know how to go about it since it has never happened before.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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### Stop trying to take whats mine



by Ren Rasmussen - Saturday, May 31, 2014, 9:22 PM

When seeing the second cartoon with the 14th amendment I personally believe that this is one of the U.S. biggest problems in our Constitution. In class we also saw a few other cartoons regarding the border of Mexico involving illegal aliens to America. America is far better off than Mexico so to get across the border to have your child born here is a goal for some families to insure that their child has a better life. When that baby is born two problems arise. Since they "become" a U.S. citizen and their parents are here illegally we have a tendency to feel obligated to take care of that child. When that happens the U.S. is spending money for that child and also do the parents stay or get deported. If they end up staying that child is going to be raised with government money and the mind set of his or hers parents. Do we really wanted registered voters from other countries having any influence at state or national level? I personally don't think so. It just one of those things that I don't see getting fixed any time soon.

The one thing that I have personally experienced is my "rights" of the second amendment. As a competitive shooter my team and I won state two years in a row shooting shotguns in high school. I am still involved in shooting but I'm afraid that due to Obama's efforts to restrict guns will make my sport highly expensive or down right banned. The 2nd amendment right say that I can bare arms but that is very limited in every state. When going to a shoot I had my 9mm side arm on my side and a few shotguns in the back of my car. Everywhere I go I am immediately flagged as a hostile. I've been denied entry into stores and had to answer questions to the cops when walking to my car. I tried to keep walk but was threatened that If I didn't answer their questions they would take my fire arms. Stupid questions like if I had a round chambered and what where my intentions of having it out. I am already agitated and tell them that its my second amendment right to have this fire arm out and that I could chamber a round if they needed to be educated about it. People are just now realizing of the oppress we have on fire arms. Once I turn twenty one I will be getting my concealed weapons permit which will restricted some of my "rights" but I wont be stereotyped when carrying. I'm glad weapon owners have rallied against Obama on the matter. I have guns for two reason. One to protect myself and for competitive shooting.

The quote that I tell anti-gun members is that "when a drunk driver kills someone we blame the drive not the car. When there is a bombing we blame the the bomber not the bomb. But when there is a shooting Americans blame the gun not the shooter." I just hate it when people crazy people misuse guns and then the whole gun owner community is looked down on.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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