The class meets every Thursday afternoon at 3:00-4:50pm in Furman Hall 310,

Reading list: Consult the COURSE MATERIALS tab of the class web-site on NYU CLASSES for each week’s readings (corresponding to this syllabus). All material is available here unless otherwise indicated. You should read the material, and come to class prepared to pose or discuss various questions that arise out of it.

Purchase of the following books is strongly recommended:

- Michael Rosen, *Dignity: its History and Meaning*
  Harvard University Press, 2012 (around $20)
- Jeremy Waldron, *Dignity, Rank and Rights*
  Oxford University Press, September 23, 2012 (around $25)

Discussion Papers
Each week, beginning on January 25 (Topic 2), you should send me by e-mail a very brief paragraph or two (maximum one page) on some aspect of the reading that you would like particularly to discuss or engage with. We will talk about these papers in the seminar. Please ensure that the papers reach me by 8pm each Wednesday.

You have three “passes” which may be used at any time to excuse you from this obligation for one week. So you only have to write ten of these brief discussion papers during the semester. Please let me know by Thursday morning when you are using one of your passes.
FIRST ASSIGNMENTS

1. DWARF-TOSSING (Thursday, January 18)
   - *The Dwarf-Throwing Case* = expanded version of the Conseil d'Etat (CdE) decision in Commune Morsange-sur-Orge (1995), plus the CdE commentary on the case, plus the decision of the UN Human Rights Committee in the same case, under the title *Wackenheim v France* (2002)

2. THE USE OF “DIGNITY” IN HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND IN CONSTITUTIONAL DISCOURSE (Thursday, January 25)
   - Preambles to UDHR and ICCPR and national constitutions