

# **CLASS 0: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

**CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES AND PLURAL APPROACHES**



# UNIVERSALISM VS. RELATIVISM

**Universalism: Rights are inherent, indivisible, and apply to all (Donnelly, 2013).**



**Relativism: Rights are shaped by culture and history (An-Na'im, 2010).**



**Debate: Can rights be both universal and context-sensitive?**

# POWER & SELECTIVITY



**Institutions accused of double standards (Hopgood, 2013).**



**Cases: Inaction in Gaza vs. interventions in Sudan, Libya.**



**Human rights as political language (Mutua, 2001).**

# **CULTURAL & FEMINIST CRITIQUES**



- **POSTCOLONIAL: SAID (1978), QUIJANO (2000) – EUROCENTRISM, ORIENTALISM.**
- **FEMINIST: MOHANTY (2003), ABU-LUGHOD (2013) – SILENCING LOCAL WOMEN.**
- **ANTHROPOLOGY: MERRY (2006) – 'VERNACULARIZATION' OF NORMS.**

# TOWARD PLURALISM



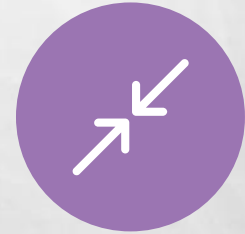
**DIALOGIC  
UNIVERSALISM:  
BENHABIB (2002).**



**ROOTED  
COSMOPOLITANISM:  
APPIAH (2006).**



**POST-SECULAR  
DIALOGUE:  
HABERMAS (2008).**



**GOAL: UNIVERSALS  
NEGOTIATED, NOT  
IMPOSED.**