

**FAIR 334C – INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS
CLASS QUESTIONS**

Women's Rights II

Alston & Goodman, pp. 562-581; Smith, pp. 562-564; Hogenboom – BBC; Cohen, *Sexual Surgery*

7. Is female circumcision a women's rights issue? Reading through the WHO Fact Sheet 241 (2012), would be correct to describe female circumcision as a medical issue and not a human rights problem? What is PLAN's position on F/G/C? How does PLAN characterize F/G/C? Cultural issue? Health/medical issue? Human rights issue? Is PLAN's plan of action an acceptable way of dealing with F/G/C? What are the five "essential points" following from UNICEF's statistical exploration of the issue? (**Alston & Goodman, pp. 562-568**)
8. Why did opponents of F/G/C abandon health arguments as a framework for opposing F/G/C? As an alternative, the anti-F/G/C campaign has embraced the human rights framework. What rights, according to these campaigners are infringed by the F/G/C practice? What are the problems with this approach? Why is consent a big issue with F/G/C, especially that other body modification procedures are not held to similarly exceptionally high standards? (**Alston & Goodman, pp. 568-572, Hogenboom, *Rise in Women*; Cohen, *Sexual Surgery***)
9. What is the AAWORD position in F/G/C? What are the arguments offered by Tamir in opposing interference on F/G/C and how does Nussbaum respond? Is the anti-F/G/C campaign simply another form of Western imperialism? What strategies might be helpful in reducing the incidence of F/G/C in countries with high prevalence rates – if there is any need for that? Are the provisions of the Protocol on Women's Rights in Africa a step in the right direction? (**Alston & Goodman, pp. 572-576; Smith, pp. 562-564; Khazan, *Why Some Women***)
10. What are the cultural practices that impinge on women's rights – identified by Coomaraswamy in her report? If these practices are embedded in different cultures, is there any way they can be eradicated without undue harm to the societies where these practices occur? What are the strategies that can be utilized towards this end? (**Alston & Goodman, pp. 577-581**)