

Course Syllabus: Final Copy

PSCI 4357 Human Rights and the Rule of Law
Fall 2010
Thursday 1-3:45 (CN 1.102)

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Class calendar and assignments posted on elearning

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Course Description

The study of international human rights typically spans a broad range of academic disciplines. This course will focus primarily upon the development of international rights norms and law as well as the major competing political theories that sometimes weigh against the development universal human rights. The course will also examine the effectiveness of the law and courts, especially international courts and truth commissions, in regard to human rights. We will also examine illustrative case studies such as Rwanda.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

1. To gain an understanding of the development of international human rights standards and the competing models and theories related to human rights and the rule of law.
 2. To develop an understanding of the empirical studies of political terror and human rights abuse in the context of theory and policy.
 3. To develop an understanding of genocide and ethnic conflict and to be able to analyze actual events of this nature.
 4. To develop an understanding of the role of truth commissions and international criminal tribunals and to be able to analyze these institutions in practice.
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Required Textbooks and Materials

Jack Donnelly. 2006. *International Human Rights*. 3rd Edition. Westview Press.

Debra DeLaet. 2006. *The Global Struggle for Human Rights*. Thomson-Wadsworth.

Priscilla B. Hayner. 2010. *Unspeakable Truths*. Routledge Press. (Note: this book will not be out until Sept. 2010).

Journal articles and excerpts of other books will be assigned throughout the semester, as well. These are placed on electronic reserves. The password and instructions are posted the e-learning site (We are not allowed to include in the syllabus or to mass email the password).

Grading Policy

Participation and Quizzes 10%

Option 1: Midterm: 40% and Final 50%

Option2: Film Paper 15%, Midterm 35% and Final 40%

A+ = 98-100%	A = 94-97%
A- = 90-93%	B+ = 88-89%
B = 84-87%	B- = 80-83%
C+ = 78-79%	C = 74-77%
C- = 70-73%	D+ = 68-69%
D = 64-67%	D- = 60-63%
F = Below 60	

Course & Instructor Policies

EXAMS: Exams will be a combination short answer and essay format. Exams will be tailored to fit the content of the course appropriately. Typically, essay questions will test your understanding of the core theories and assumptions we have studied and applied. They will test your ability both to evaluate and to apply theory to the various countries. They will test your ability to synthesize the material and findings and to be able to derive and discuss relevant implications. Typically I will give the students a list of possible essays for which they should prepare. I will then narrow the selection down to a smaller set of options from which students will chose the essay(s) on which to actually write.

Make-up exams will be arranged for students with a valid excuse under university policy provided that the student contacts the professor prior to the exam time.

OPTIONAL FILM PAPER AND REPORT: Instructions will be given separately in class.

Late papers will lose ten points per calendar. If you cannot make class the day the paper is due you may email your paper to me *ahead* of time to avoid the late-points penalty.

PARTICIPATION: Students are expected to attend class regularly and role will be taken. Students are expected to come to class prepared and to participate constructively in class discussion and group activities. We will occasionally engage in classroom activities including QUIZZES that will count toward participation.

No extra credit or special assignments offered.

NOTE: This is a senior level class, and there is an expectation that you are able to read, write and engage in critical analysis at a senior level. The readings and the exams will reflect this level of ability. Students are expected to read all assigned material and will be responsible on exams for material not covered in class, as well as that covered in class.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

This is a senior level class therefore readings will typically cover two to three chapters a week or the equivalent in journal articles (approximately 60 pages per week which is appropriate for a senior level class).

Week One Aug. 19th

[illegible]

Week Two Aug. 26th

[illegible]

Week Three Sept. 2nd (BREAK FROM THEORY)

- **Issue: Asylum, International Law and the U.S.**
 - “*It is not the business of the Executive Branch to decide whether a particular individual is a refugee or not. That is a question for the courts. The Executive Branch’s role is to enforce the law as it is written. If the law says that a particular individual is a refugee, then the Executive Branch must grant them asylum. If the law says that a particular individual is not a refugee, then the Executive Branch must deny them asylum. It is not the business of the Executive Branch to decide whether the law is just or not. That is a question for the courts.*” PS: Political Science
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“Determinants of Asylum Grants: A Rare Examination of Factors Typically Unobservable in
 the Asylum Process” *Journal of Refugee Studies*

- [Determinants of Asylum Grants: A Rare Examination of Factors Typically Unobservable in the Asylum Process](#)
- *Well-Founded Fear*

Week Four Sept. 9th

Finish Discussion of Asylum and Returning Competing Theories of Human Rights (Realism and National Security Doctrine)

- Peter Two Donnelly: “Theories of Human Rights”
- Donnelly: “Domestic Politics and the Asylum Process—A Response to the ‘Cone’”

Week Five Sept. 16th

Human Rights, Realism and U.S. Foreign Policy

- [Human Rights, Realism and U.S. Foreign Policy](#)
- 2000. “The Asylum Process and the Asylum Process” *American Journal of Political Science*
- 1999. “The Asylum Process and the Asylum Process” *International Studies Quarterly*
- *Foreign Aid Simulation (details to be announced)*

Week Six Sept. 23rd

The Universality of Human Rights

- Chapter Three DeLaet: “Are Rights Universal?”
- Chapter Three Donnelly: “The Relative Universality of Human Rights”
- [The Universality of Human Rights](#)

Week Seven September 30th

The Psychology of Terror

- Alette Smulders. 2004. “What Transforms Ordinary People into Gross Human Rights Abusers?” In *The Systematic Study of Human Rights*
- [The Psychology of Terror](#)
 - [The Psychology of Terror](#)
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Week Eight October 7th

- Finish Death in Gaza
- MIDTERM

Week Nine Oct 14th

Human Rights as Collective Rights: Self-Determination and Genocide

- Chapter Five DeLaet: "Collective Rights in a Sovereign World"
- Chapter Eight Donnelly: "Humanitarian Intervention against Genocide"
- From "Kosovo" (Chapter Five) in *Why Nations Go To War*

Week Ten October 21st

Genocide: Rwanda and Darfur

- Powers, Samantha. 2001. "Bystanders to Genocide." *Atlantic Monthly* <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200109/power-genocide>
- "We Wish To Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Our Families (Note: Be sure you follow the links to read the full interview)" <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/evil/interviews/gourevitch.html>

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Week Eleven October 28th

Genocide Continued

- Scott Straus 2005. "Darfur and the Genocide Debate" *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 84, No. 1 (Jan. - Feb., 2005), pp. 123-133.
- Adam E. Keith. 2007. "The African Union in Darfur: An African Solution to a Global Problem?" *Journal of Public International Affairs* 18: 149-64: <http://www.princeton.edu/jpia/past-issues-1/2007/7.pdf>

Week Twelve November 4th

Child Soldiers and Human Trafficking

- "Child Soldiers" <http://www.vision.org/visionmedia/article.aspx?id=6684>
- Kristof Van Impe. 2000. "People for Sale: The Need for a Multidisciplinary Approach towards Human Trafficking." *International Migration* 38(3): 113-191.

Week Thirteen November 11th

Women's Rights

- Chapter Seven DeLaet: "Sexual Equality and Human Rights"
- "The Global Diffusion of Markets and Democracy"

- Henderson, Conway W. 2004. "The Political Repression of Women." *Human Rights Quarterly* 26(1):111-127.
- Butler, Christopher K., Tali Gluch, and Neil J. Mitchell. 2007. "Security Forces and Sexual Violence: A Social Agent Argument." *Journal of Peace Research* 44(1):11-27.

- **Truth Commissions and Reparations?**
 - Chapter Ten DeLaet: “Restorative Justice and Human Rights”
 - [REDACTED]

- **REMEMBER Film Papers are Due TUESDAY November 23rd?**
- **No Class November 25th : HAPPY THANKSGIVING?**

- **Finish Truth Commissions and Reparations and International Criminal Tribunals**
 - 2000-2001: Truth Commission in Sierra Leone
 - Chapter Nine DeLaet: “Punitive Justice and Human Rights”
 - 2001-2002: Truth Commission in Kosovo (Chapter Five) Why Nations Go To War

REMEMBER: These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor. Please keep current through in-class and e-learning announcements.

At the above link you may access university policies on: Student Conduct & Discipline, Academic Integrity, Email Use, Withdrawal from Class, Student Grievance Procedures, Incomplete Grade Policy, Disability Services, and Religious Holy Days.