

## ***Course Syllabus***

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### **COURSE INFORMATION**

GOVT 4357 Human Rights and the Rule of Law

Fall 2012

SOM 2.902

M/W 1-2:15 pm

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### **Professor Contact Information**

Linda Camp Keith

972-883-6481

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Green 3.818

Office Hours: Mon 2:15-3:30 and Wed. 11:30-12:30 and by appt.

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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, Darfur and Bosnia.

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### **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 crimes against humanity 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**

**International Human Rights**, 4th Edition by Jack Donnelly. July 2012

ISBN 9780813345017

All other readings will be placed in the UTD e-reserves system or placed on elearning. More instructions and appropriate passwords will be place on elearning.

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### **Grading Policy and Components**

Class Participation (5%)  
Two Midterm Exams (60% each)  
Short Film Paper and Foreign Aid Simulation (10%)  
Group Projects/Multi-Media Presentations (25%)

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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	

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### **Course & Instructor Policies**

**EXAMS:** Exams are typically 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. The short answer section is typically given on one day and the essay section on the second.

**MISSED EXAM:** A comprehensive make-up exam will be given before the last day of class for students who missed an exam with a university-approved excuse, provided that the student contacts the professor prior to the exam time and subsequently provides the appropriate documentation.

**GROUP PROJECTS/MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATIONS:** Students will conduct a joint research project that examines a specific topic within the human rights literature, such as trafficking, child soldiers, or refugees and displaced persons, or that examines specific human rights events such as the genocide in Darfur or political repression during the Arab spring. Students will

present their research in multi-media presentations of the students' choice. The projects represent an opportunity for students to explore human rights issues outside of the limited ones we can explore in a single semester and allow students to creatively devise a delivery mechanism to present the information to the rest of the class.

**SHORT FILM PAPER:** In lieu of class the Wed. before Thanksgiving students will watch an approved human rights documentary and write a short paper that assesses the film. Students will post their papers on elearning for other students to view. More instructions to follow.

**FOREIGN AID SIMULATION/SHORT RESPONSE ESSAY:** Students will participate in an in-class simulation dealing with U.S. foreign aid allocations. Students will write a short response essay assessing the experience. More detailed instructions will be given in class.

**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. I use the Socratic Method to call on students. We will occasionally engage in classroom activities that will count toward participation.

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**Elearning:** Students should consult the class elearning website for announcements and updates to the syllabus. Please note that I do not answer email through elearning email, if you email me, use your UTD email and email me at my address above. Remember, I cannot respond to non-UTD email from a student.

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**Additional UT DALLAS Policies may be found at:** <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>

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### **Assignments & Academic Calendar**

Readings will typically cover two chapters a week or sometimes one chapter and one outside article (approximately 50 to 60 pages per week which is appropriate for a senior level class). Below is a tentative calendar. Please follow class and elearning announcements to stay update on any subsequent adjustments.

#### **Week One (Aug 27 and 29) *Development of International Human Rights***

- Chapter One Donnelly: Human Rights as an Issue in World Politics

#### **Week Two (Sept. 5--no class Sept. 3) *Competing Theories of Human Rights***

- Chapter Two Donnelly: "Theories of Human Rights"

#### **Week Three (Sept 10 and 12) *The Universality of Human Rights***

- Chapter Three Donnelly: "The Relative Universality of Human Rights"

- Shashi Tharoor. 1999. Are Human Rights Universal? World Policy Journal:  
<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/tharoor2.htm>

**Week Four (Sept 17 and 19) *Realism, National Security Doctrine and the Southern Cone***

- Chapter Four Donnelly: “Domestic Politics of Human Rights—The Case of the Southern Cone”

**Week Five (Sept 24 and 26) *Repression and the Rule of Law***

- Keith, Linda Camp. 2011. *Political Repression: Courts and The Law, Chapter Two (Empirical Theories and Studies of Political Repression)*
- Keith Chapter Four (lecture and handouts)

**Week Six (Oct 1 and 3) *Theoretical Debates Revisited: Norms versus Interest in US Policy (Asylum and Aid)***

- Chapter Six Donnelly: Human Rights and Foreign Policy (pages tba)
- Keith, Holmes, and Miller 2012 (will post on elearning)
- **WED: Foreign AID simulation**

**Week Seven (Oct 8 and 10)**

**MIDTERM ONE**

- MIDTERM ONE
- Short answer one day and essay the next

**Week Eight (Oct 15 and 17) *The Psychology of Terror***

- NOTE: I will post an electronic set of readings directly on elearning for these readings:
- Alette Smuelers. 2004. “What Transforms Ordinary People into Gross Human Rights Abusers?” In Carey and Poe, eds. *The Systematic Study of Human Rights*, eds. Sabine Carey and Steven C. Poe (New York: Ashgate Publishing)
- EXCERPT from *The Making of a Suicide Bomber: What Drives Someone to Kill Themselves While Killing Others?* By Post et al.
- EXCERPT from *Understanding the Terrorist Mind-Set* by Randy Borum
- *Death in Gaza* (in class)

**Week Nine (Oct 22 and 24) *Genocide and International Responses***

- NOTE: This reading will be spread out over two weeks. I will give further instructions on how to split it between the two weeks.
- Powers, Samantha. 2001. “Bystanders to Genocide.” *Atlantic Monthly*  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200109/power-genocide>

- Interview with [Philip Gourevitch](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/evil/interviews/gourevitch.html) author of *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)
- John Stoessinger, "From Sarajevo to Kosovo" (Chapter Five) in *Why Nations Go To War* (pages tba)
- Chapter Thirteen Donnelly: Humanitarian Intervention Against Genocide

### **Week Ten (Oct 29 and 31) Genocide and International Responses**

- NOTE: This reading will be spread out over two weeks. I will give further instructions on how to split it between the two weeks.
- Powers, Samantha. 2001. "Bystanders to Genocide." *Atlantic Monthly*  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200109/power-genocide>
- Interview with [Philip Gourevitch](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/evil/interviews/gourevitch.html) author of *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)
- John Stoessinger, "From Sarajevo to Kosovo" (Chapter Five) in *Why Nations Go To War* (pages tba)
- Chapter Thirteen Donnelly: Humanitarian Intervention Against Genocide

### **Week Eleven (Nov 5 and 7) Violence against Women**

- Henderson, Conway W. 2004. "The Political Repression of Women." *Human Rights Quarterly* 26: 1028-1049.
- Butler, Christopher K., Tali Gluch, and Neil J. Mitchell. 2007. "Security Forces and Sexual Violence: A Cross-National Analysis of a Principal-Agent Argument." *Journal of Peace Research* 44(6): 669-687.

### **Week Twelve (Nov 12 and 14) Justice Issues: International Courts, Truth Commissions, and Indigenous Justice**

- NOTE: Readings will be spread out over two weeks. I will give further instructions on how to split it between the two weeks.
- Priscilla B. Hayner. 2011. *Unspeakable Truths, Second Edition*. Routledge Press. Chapters One, Two, Three and Four (pages 1-44)
- Debra DeLaet. 2006. *The Global Struggle for Human Rights*. Thomson-Wadsworth. Chapter Nine (Punitive Justice and Human Rights) and Chapter Ten (Restorative Justice and Human Rights)

### **Week Thirteen (Nov 19 and 21) Justice Issues: International Courts, Truth Commissions, and Indigenous Justice Continued**

- Readings from above continue
- **WED: Film Activity in lieu of class 21<sup>st</sup> (see above)**

**Week Fourteen (Nov 26 and 28) MIDTERM TWO**

- MIDTERM TWO
- Short answer one day and essay the next

**Week Fifteen (Dec 3 and 5): GROUP Multi-Media Presentations**

**Week Sixteen (Dec 10 and 12): GROUP Multi-Media Presentations**