

University of Georgia
INTL 4620: Human Rights
Maymester 2015, M-F 12:30-3:15 PM
Baldwin Hall 307

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Office Hours: Before/After Class, By Appointment
CRN: 53524

Course Description and Objectives

What are human rights and why do they matter in the world today? This class will focus on a wide range of topics related to human rights to answer these questions, including many areas of overlap with international politics, law, and economics. Along the way, we will consider the tricky processes by which human rights are defined, respected (or not), and measured. By the end of this course, you should:

-Understand the various definitions of human rights and be able to explain and justify your own preferred conception of the term

-Recognize the different ways that human rights may be violated or protected, as well as the source of those violations/protections

-Be aware of the broad reach of this issue and capable of participating intelligently in public discussions of the topic

-Be able to think critically and ask and answer insightful questions on the subject

Required Reading

(1) Goodhart, Michael, ed. 2013. *Human Rights: Politics and Practice*. 2nd ed. New York: Oxford University Press.

Recommended Reading

(1) Donnelly, Jack. 2013. *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice*. 3rd ed. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

(2) Schulz, William F., ed. 2007. *The Phenomenon of Torture: Readings and Commentary*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Course Expectations

Attendance and Participation (20% of your grade):

In a class that is simultaneously long (3 hours daily) and short (15 class days in total), regular attendance and participation are vital. To earn full credit, a student must be prepared to meaningfully engage in discussion, respond to questions, ask questions of his/her own, and challenge the material (and the instructor). Speaking in front of the class or disagreeing with a text may be new to a lot of people, but it is absolutely essential for a lively class and a fulfilling college experience in general. Completing the assigned readings and attending every day will make this level of participation considerably easier. There will be a strong correlation between attendance and participation: in other words, you cannot get credit for participating if you are not present. See the attendance policy below for more details. Each portion will count for 10% of your final grade.

Discussion Leadership (20% of your grade):

Each student will be responsible for serving as “discussion leader” for one class. There will be 2-4 discussion leaders per class period, starting the second week of class. As a leader, you will be responsible for: providing the class with a concise summary of each of the day's readings, generating interesting questions for class debate, and facilitating discussion related to the topic. Sign-ups will occur during the first week, and more details will be provided at that time.

Midterm Exam (20% of your grade) and Final Exam (20% of your grade):

There will be two exams during the semester. Both will consist of multiple choice questions and several short answers drawn from the first half of the class (for the midterm) and the second half of the class (for the final). The midterm is currently scheduled for Friday, May 22nd during class time. The final will take place during the final exam slot: Wednesday, June 3rd at our regular time and place.

Human Rights Country Report (20% of your grade):

The final project for the class will be a 5-10 minute presentation on the state of human rights in a country other than the United States. You can create a poster with key facts, you can do a power point, make a video, or even record a podcast. Creativity is encouraged; the point is to assess the human rights situation on the ground in a country and report your findings to the class. Presentations will take place on the last class day of the semester. You may work with ONE partner for this project if you wish, but expectations will be higher. More details will be provided closer to time.

Course Policies

Attendance:

Since there are only 15 class days, regular attendance is essential. That being said, some absences cannot be avoided. I follow the university's guidelines for excused absences: any class period missed due to a University-sanctioned event (conference/sport/trip), a documented medical reason (e.g. doctor's note), or death or serious injury to a direct relative (mother, father, child, sibling, grandparent) will be counted as excused. These absences will not count against your grade, and you will be allowed to make up any assignments that happened to fall on the excused date.

All other absences will count as unexcused: illnesses without a doctor's note provided within two days of the absence, sleeping through class, forgetting class, or missing for any other reason will count against your final grade. In addition, you will *not* be allowed to make up any assignment that falls on the date of an unexcused absence. No exceptions. The missed assignment grade will count as a zero. However, I understand some days you simply feel too lousy to go to class, but not lousy enough to go the doctor, so every student will get one freebie unexcused absence which will not count against the attendance/participation grade. To repeat, though, any assignments missed due to an unexcused absence (even the “freebie” absence) will be counted as a zero. Use the freebie wisely.

Any unexcused absence after the freebie will deduct two points from your total grade, up to ten percentage points. Remember, missing one class is the equivalent of missing a week of instruction during the regular semester. As noted earlier, lack of attendance will also impact the participation grade.

Tardiness:

All efforts should be made to get to class promptly. If frequent tardiness becomes a problem, it could potentially impact your attendance grade. If you are wondering “how late is too late?” to show up, the answer is: come as soon as you can. Each day counts as a week of class, and there will be a lot of material covered during each session. We will generally take a break between 1:30-2:00 PM each day. If you are present for the second half of class, you may not lose the full two points for an unexcused absence (after the freebie). Obviously, if you have an excuse for missing a half of class, that will not count against you. Please see me if you have questions.

Grades:

This class will use the standard plus/minus grading system. Grades will be rounded to the nearest point.

A= 93-100	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D= 60-69	F= Below 60
A- = 90-92	B= 83-86	C= 73-76		
	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72		

Cell Phones:

Cell phones, MP3 players, and other noise-making devices (does anyone use a beeper or pager anymore?) must be silenced and put away during class. Also, there is no reason to have head phones on during class time. Frequent or flagrant disruptions may result in a reduction in the participation grade.

Laptops and Tablets:

Laptops and tablets are permitted in class for note-taking and research purposes *only*. If you choose to use a laptop during class, please be courteous to your instructor and your colleagues: turn off the sound and avoid the temptation to tweet, facebook, or whatever else the kids these days are doing online. If these items become a distraction, I reserve the right to discontinue their use.

Academic Honesty:

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found at: www.uga.edu/honesty. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor. Any instance of cheating or plagiarism could be grounds for removal from the course with a grade of WF.

Class Discussion and Debate:

At times during the class, we will be discussing controversial and/or sensitive subjects. It is of the utmost importance that all students conduct themselves in a professional, respectful manner. Personal attacks, hateful speech, or general disrespect to the instructor or your colleagues will not be tolerated. This does not mean you have to agree with everything being said: far from it! If you disagree with anything and can back it up, feel free to challenge your classmates, the textbook, or the instructor. Lively, informed, and passionate debate is at the heart of good learning.

Communicating with the Instructor:

The best way to get in contact with the instructor is through e-mail at swalter7@uga.edu. All students will be expected to check their own UGA e-mail addresses for important updates about the course, assignments, etc. ELC will be used to post course content, but e-mail will be the most common means of communication.

If you have any questions you cannot or do not want to address over e-mail, please feel free to visit my office hours. They are scheduled before and after each class in Baldwin 307, or by appointment at my office in Candler Hall B02. If you want to guarantee your time, please send me an e-mail before you plan on stopping by.

Staying Informed:

As an International Relations scholar, it is important to keep up with major events around the world. This course should make you into a better-informed citizen, but a lot of that work falls on you the student. Where you get your news is entirely up to you, but be sure to cite your sources if you try to bring it up as a point in class discussion. Some suggested sites include: [The New York Times](#), [The Washington Post](#), [CNN](#), [NPR](#), or political blogs such as [The Monkey Cage](#), [The Quantitative Peace](#), or [The Duck of Minerva](#).

Changes to the Syllabus:

This syllabus should be considered a general plan and not a hard and fast guide. All efforts will be made to keep test dates and due dates the same as listed, and any changes will be announced well in advance. This notice applies to policies as well as assignments. With that in mind, be sure to come to class and check your e-mail regularly so that you do not miss out on any new information.

Course Schedule

Readings outside of the Goodhart book will be e-mailed or posted to ELC

Day 1 (Tuesday, May 12th): Introduction and Definitions

Assignments: Review the Syllabus

Goodhart, Introduction and Chapter 1

Donnelly, Chapter 1

Day 2 (Wednesday, May 13th): Human Rights and International Law

Assignments: Goodhart, Chapters 2 and 4, Appendixes 1-3

Optional Protocol to the ICCPR: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPCCPR1.aspx>

Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/2ndOPCCPR.aspx>

Day 3 (Thursday, May 14th): Universalism and Relativism

Assignments: Review Goodhart, Chapter 2

Goodhart, Chapter 6

Day 4 (Friday, May 15th): Measuring and Studying Human Rights

Assignments: Goodhart, Chapter 21

Cingranelli, David L. and David L. Richards. 2010. "The Cingranelli and Richards (CIRI) Human Rights Data Project." *Human Rights Quarterly* 32(2): 401-424 (ELC)

The CIRI Human Rights Data Project website: <http://www.humanrightsdata.com/>

Richards, David L. and K. Chad Clay. 2012. "Measuring Government Effort to Respect Economic Rights" (ELC)

Day 5 (Monday, May 18th): Measuring and Studying Human Rights (continued)

Assignment: Goodhart, Chapters 3 and 5

Day 6 (Tuesday, May 19th): Physical Integrity Rights

Assignments: Poe, Steven C. 2004. "The Decision to Repress: An Integrative Theoretical Approach to the Research on Human Rights and Repression." In Sabine C. Carey and Steven C. Poe, eds., *Understanding Human Rights Violations*, Burlington: Ashgate. (ELC)

Englehart, Neil A. 2009. "State Capacity, State Failure, and Human Rights." *Journal of Peace Research* 46 (2): 163-180. (ELC)

Poe, Steven C., C. Neal Tate, and Linda Camp Keith. 1999. "Repression of the Human Right to Personal Integrity Revisited: A Global Cross-national Study Covering the Years 1976-1993." *International Studies Quarterly* 43(2): 291-313. (ELC)

Day 7 (Wednesday, May 20th): Physical Integrity Rights (continued)

Assignments: Boler, Jean. 1985. "The Mothers Committee of El Salvador: National Human Rights Advocates." *Human Rights Quarterly* 7 (4): 541-556. (ELC)

Goodhart, Chapter 16

Lessons from Rwanda website: <http://www.un.org/en/preventgenocide/rwanda/>

Harff, Barbara. 2003. "No Lessons Learned from the Holocaust? Assessing Risks of Genocide and Political Mass Murder since 1955." *American Political Science Review* 97 (1): 57-73

Day 8 (Thursday, May 21st): Physical Integrity Rights (continued) and Midterm Review

Assignments: Goodhart, Chapter 18

Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cat.htm>

Selected Accounts of Physical Integrity Rights Abuses (TBA, available on ELC)

Day 9 (Friday, May 22nd): Midterm Exam

Assignment: Study

Day 10 (Tuesday, May 26th): Economic/Subsistence Rights

Assignments: Hertel, Shareen, and Lanse Minkler. 2007. "Economic Rights: The Terrain." In Shareen Hertel and Lanse Minkler, eds., *Economic Rights*, New York: Cambridge. (ELC)

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. 2005. "Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Handbook for National Human Rights Institutions."

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/training12en.pdf>.

Goodhart, Chapter 10

Richards, David L. 2012. "What's in a Name? Human Rights, Human Development, and Human Dignity." WIDER Angle UNU-WIDER. December.

http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/newsletter/articles2012/en_GB/12-2012-DR/

Leary, Virginia. 1996. "The Paradox of Workers' Rights as Human Rights." In Lance A. Compa and Stephen F. Diamond, eds., *Human Rights, Labor Rights, and International Trade*, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania. (ELC)

Day 11 (Wednesday, May 27th): Discrimination and Membership

Assignments: Goodhart, Chapters 12, 14, and 15

Bunch, Charlotte. 1990. "Women's Rights as Human Rights: Toward a Re-Vision of Human Rights." *Human Rights Quarterly* 12 (4): 486-498. (ELC)

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/econvention.htm>

Convention on the Rights of the Child: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/crc.htm>

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: <http://bit.ly/JY13eM>

Declaration on the Rights of Minorities: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/minorities.htm>

Day 12 (Thursday, May 28th): Human Rights and Civil Conflict

Assignment: Selections from T. David Mason, *Caught in the Crossfire*. (ELC)

Day 13 (Friday, May 29th): Economic Globalization and Human Rights

Assignment: Goodhart, Chapter 11

Richards, David L., Ronald D. Gelleny and David H. Sacko. 2001. "Money With A Mean Streak? Foreign Economic Penetration and Government Respect for Human Rights in Developing Countries." *International Studies Quarterly* 45 (2): 219-239. (ELC)

Blanton, Shannon Lindsey, and Robert G. Blanton. 2007. "What Attracts Foreign Investors? An Examination of Human Rights and Foreign Direct Investment." *Journal of Politics* 69 (1): 143-155. (ELC)

Richards, David L., and Ronald Gelleny. 2007. "Women's Status and Economic Globalization." *International Studies Quarterly* 51 (4): 855-876. (ELC)

Greenhill, Brian, Layna Mosley, and Aseem Prakash. 2009. "Trade-based Diffusion of Labor Rights: A Panel Study, 1986- 2002." *American Political Science Review* 103 (4): 669-690. (ELC)

Day 14 (Monday, June 1st): International Efforts to Protect Rights

Assignments: Goodhart, Chapter 19

Krain, Matthew. 2005. "International Intervention and the Severity of Genocides and Politicides." *International Studies Quarterly* 49: 363–387. (ELC)

Peksen, Dursun. 2009. "Better or Worse? The Effect of Economic Sanctions on Human Rights." *Journal of Peace Research* 46 (1): 59-77. (ELC)

Bell, Sam R., K. Chad Clay, and Amanda Murdie. 2012. "Neighborhood Watch: Spatial Effects of Human Rights INGOs." *Journal of Politics* 74 (2): 354-368. (ELC)

Day 15 (Tuesday, June 2nd): Exam Review and Presentations

Assignment: Prepare for presentations

Day 16 (Wednesday, June 3rd): Final Exam (Regular Time and Room)

Assignment: Study