

**Political Science 106 Special Topics  
Human Rights  
Spring 2017  
MW 5:00-6:15 Phelps 2536**

**Instructor: Natasha Bennett  
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-4PM**

Course Description:

This is a survey course on human rights that will analyze human rights theories, human rights in international law, institutions and politics, and examples of different kinds of human rights violations across the world. This course rests at the intersection of international relations and comparative politics. We will be examining the global and national understandings of human rights as they pertain to a wide array of issue areas.

Human rights play a central role in contemporary international politics, but many aspects of human rights and their implementation remain controversial. Throughout this course we will explore answers to the following questions: What are international human rights? What are the social and political conditions that seem to cause widespread human rights violations? How are human rights best protected and fulfilled at global and national levels?

Learning Objectives

You will learn how to identify and analyze arguments presented in the readings regarding a wide range of perspectives regarding human rights theory and practice. Additionally, you will learn how to assess the successes and failures of human rights implementations, applying them to contemporary world issues. You will also learn how to write in a clear and condensed manner in a way that analyzes facts, political situations, and proposes solutions.

**Required Texts:** For this course, you will be asked to purchase a textbook: Human Rights: Politics and Practice 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, edited by Michael Goodhart (Oxford University Press 2016). (Approximately \$50 dollars new, \$30 used). You should purchase the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, as the second edition does not contain all the readings. The book will provide the main readings for the course, but will be supplemented with other readings, which will be made available to you via GauchoSpace.

**Grade Breakdown**

- Attendance and Participation- 13%
  - Attendance at required lecture on May 3<sup>rd</sup> is the other 2%
- Pop Reading Quizzes- 10%
- Midterm Exam- 20%
- Human Rights Report- 30%
  - HRR outline- 5%
- Final Exam- 20%

**DEADLINES/Important Dates:**

- (M) May 1- In-class midterm exam
- (F) May 5- Paper topic survey submitted through Gauchospace
- (F) May 19- Report outline due- 11:59PM through Gauchospace
- (F) June 9- Human rights report due at 11:59PM through Gauchospace
- (Tues) June 13<sup>th</sup>- Final exam- 7:30-10:30 PM

**Attendance and Participation:** Attendance and participation are highly encouraged. You will be permitted to miss three classes without a penalty. I do not want, or require any documentation for the first three absences. After three absences, your participation grade will be affected 3% points per absence. Be wise with how you want to use these absences. I would recommend that you save them for when you need them.

**Pop Reading Quizzes:** Throughout the quarter, I will randomly assign 6 readings quizzes for the readings due for that day. Only the top 4 reading quiz grades will count towards your final grade in the course. There will be no make-up quizzes.

**Human Rights Report:** The main assignment in this course is a human rights report in which you will be asked to analyze a contemporary world issue through a human rights lens. This will require some external research. Think of this report as something that an international non-governmental organization (like Human Rights Watch or Amnesty International) produces with the hopes of having influence of policy reform. I will provide some examples in class. You will be asked to provide background on a contemporary issue, identify and analyze which human rights are violated, identify and analyze the political, social, economic drivers of the abuses, and consider solutions. The instructions and assignment will be posted on Gauchospace the first week of the class, so you will have the entire quarter to work on it. The paper must be **no more** than 10 pages, double spaced, 12 pt. font, 1in margins and uploaded onto Gauchospace by 12 noon on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Paper outline:** In order to ensure a well-developed paper, you will be asked to provide a basic outline. The purpose of the outline is to ensure that you are thinking about your topic ahead of time, and are considering the ways that the material presented in class related to the contemporary world issue. This outline is mainly for you to work out your thoughts and ideas ahead of time so that you are able to produce a paper you can be proud of. I will provide minor feedback on the outline.

**Paper Topic Survey:** This is simply a short survey you will need to fill out through Gauchospace that states what topic you have chosen to write about and identify a list of sources you will be using for your empirical research.

**Midterm-** The midterm for this class will be a combination of identifications, and one longer essay.

**Final-** The final exam will be a combination of identifications one longer essay. It will cover all the material since the midterm.

**Submission Policy:** All submission dates and times for the paper and exams are binding. Since you have the whole quarter to work on the report, **I will not accept late papers.** Please come talk to me if you have an extenuating circumstance.

### University Resources

**Academic Integrity:** Any and all plagiarism will be reported-NO EXCEPTIONS. For more information on what constitutes plagiarism please visit: [A Student's Guide to Academic Integrity at UCSB](#)

**Disabled Students Program:** The American Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disabled Students Program (<http://dsp.sa.ucsb.edu/>) as soon as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements, otherwise your needs may not be accommodated.

### Reading and Course Schedule:

#### *Week 1: Introduction and History*

M (April 3)- Introduction

1. "Introduction" in Goodhart

W (April 5)- Foundations of Human Rights

1. "Normative and Theoretical Foundation of Human Rights"- Langlois in Goodhart
2. "Human Rights as Critique of Power"—Brooke Ackerly in Goodhart

#### *Week 2: What are Human Rights?*

M (April 10) The Concept of Human Rights

1. "The Concept of Human Rights" (Chapter 1 in Jack Donnelly Universal Human Rights)—on GauchoSpace
2. "The Universal Declaration Model" (Chapter 2 in Jack Donnelly)—on GauchoSpace
3. Universal Declaration of Human Rights- on GauchoSpace

W (April 12) The Concept of Human Rights continued

1. "Capabilities and Human Rights"- Martha Nussbaum- Fordham Law Review-on GauchoSpace

Week 3: Causes and Patterns of Rights Violations

M (April 17)-

1. “Economic and Political Explanations for Human Rights Violations”- Mitchell and McCormick, *World Politics* Vol 40, no 4-- on GauchoSpace
2. Poe, Tate, and Keith. 1999. Repression of the human right to personal integrity revisited: A global cross-national study covering the years 1976-1993. ISQ 43, 291-313.

W (April 19)-

1. “Torture”- *William Schulz* in Goodhart
2. “Genocide and Human Rights”- *Scott Straus* in Goodhart
3. “Transitional Justice”—*Joanna R. Quinn*- in Goodhart

Week 4: The International Human Rights Regime

M (April 24) International Regime for Human Rights

1. “International Human Rights: A Regime Analysis”- *Jack Donnelly*- *International Organization*-on GauchoSpace
2. “Human Rights in International Law”- *Rhona Smith* in Goodhart

W (April 26) Commitment and Domestic Compliance

1. “Why Do Countries Commit to Human Rights Treaties”—*Oona Hathaway*- *Journal of Conflict Resolution*- on GauchoSpace
- \*2. “Human Rights in Comparative Politics”—*Sonia Cardenas*—in Goodhart

Week 5: Developing a Human Rights Report

M (May 1)- **MIDTERM**

W (May 3)- **REQUIRED LECTURE** (2% point of your final grade)

-We will spend the class discussing various important aspects for the final paper including:

- examples of human rights reports
- how to go about choosing a topic
- appropriate and inappropriate use of sources
- writing guidelines

F (May 5)- **Decide on a paper topic, and fill out survey form on GauchoSpace by 11:59PM**

Week 6: Globalization and Human Rights

M (May 8)-

1. Economic Globalization and Human Rights—David Richards—in Goodhart
2. Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation—Andrea M. Bertone—in Goodhart

W (May 10)-

1. “A Human Rights Approach to Development”—Brigittee Hamm *Human Rights Quarterly*- on GauchoSpace
2. Human Rights and Politics in Development—Sakikio Fukuda-Parr in Goodhart
3. \**“Children’s Human Rights”*—Vanessa Pupavac—in Goodhart

Week 7: Migration and Human Rights

M (May 15) – Forced Migration and Refugees

1. “Human Rights and Forced Migration”- Gil Loescher in Goodhart
2. “Human Rights, Refugees, and the Right ‘To Enjoy’ Asylum”- Alice Edwards- On GauchoSpace

Guest Lecture:

Hannah K. Brown,  
Refugee Officer for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and  
Previous work with International Rescue Committee in a refugee camp in Tanzania

W (May 17) – Migration and Citizenship

1. “Introduction: Globalization and the Citizenship Gap” Brysk and Shafir in *People Out of Place*—on GauchoSpace
2. “Citizenship and Human Rights in an Era of Globalization”- Gershon Shafir in Brysk and Shafir in *People Out of Place*—On GauchoSpace

**F (May 19)- Paper Outline Due (11:59PM through GauchoSpace)**

Week 8: Gender and Human Rights

M (May 22)

1. “Women’s Rights as Human Rights”- Charlotte Bunch—on GauchoSpace
2. “When Development is Not Enough: Inequality, Structural Change, and Violence Against Women”—Alison Brysk and Aashish Mehta

W (May 24)

1. “Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Human Rights”—Keating and Burack in Goodhart
2. Excerpt: *When States Come Out: Europe’s Sexual Minority and the Politics of Visibility*, by Phillip Ayoub

Week 9: Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights

M (May 29)- NO CLASS MEMORIAL DAY

W. (May 31)-

1. "Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights"- Havemann in Goodhart
2. Excerpt: *From Tribal Village to Global Village*- Alison Brysk- on GauchoSpace

Week 10: Global Civil Society

M. (June 5) "Introduction" *Activists Beyond Borders*- Keck and Sikkink- on GauchoSpace

W. (June 7) Global Civil Society and Human Rights, *Marlies Glasius and Doutje Lettinga*- in Goodhart

**HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT DUE: FRIDAY, JUNE 9 by 11:59PM.**

**Uploaded onto GauchoSpace**

**FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY, JUNE 13 7:30-10:30 PM**