

TOPICS IN POLITICS: INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Washington University in Saint Louis
Department of Political Science
Fall 2014

Contact Information

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Office Hours: TuTh 2:00-3:00 PM

Course Information

Course: Pol Sci 3171
Time: TuTh 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Location: Seigle 106
Website: Blackboard

1 Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the establishment, development, and current role of the international human rights regime in world politics. In this course, we will focus on three broad themes. First, we will examine the conceptual and historical origins of the international human rights regime. Second, we will explore patterns of human rights abuses around the world, including the ways in which human rights are violated, explanations for human rights violations, and the extent of the problem cross-nationally. Finally, we will examine the potential international and domestic solutions offered by human rights scholars to improve respect for human rights. Through discussion of these topics, we will explore the role of the various theoretical solutions in improving state respect for human rights generally, but will specifically focus on torture and violence against women, as well as various other contemporary human rights issues.

2 Course Objectives

Upon successfully completing this course, students should:

- Understand the historical origins of the international human rights regime
- Understand various conceptual issues associated with human rights
- Be familiar with various sources of human rights violations, the ways in which human rights are violated globally, and the cross-national extent of the problem of human rights violations

- Be familiar with the various domestic and international theoretical solutions offered for improving respect for human rights
- Gain analytical, critical thinking and writing skills, and an improved ability to make well-developed, logical, convincing arguments

3 Course Readings

There are no required books to buy for this course. Instead, we will discuss a variety of readings from academic journals, excerpts from various textbooks, and the popular press. You are expected to do the assigned readings before the class period indicated on the syllabus and come to class prepared for discussion. Daily reading assignments are listed on this syllabus and can be found in one of two places:

- Blackboard (under the “ Course Readings” tab)
- An online provider, either via JSTOR (www.jstor.org) or otherwise specified on this syllabus

4 Blackboard and Email

This course has a Blackboard website that can be accessed at <http://bb.wustl.edu>. You can login using your WUSTL ID and password. Please check this site regularly for readings, assignments, and other updates. Announcements may be sent out via email to your WUSTL email account or posted directly on Blackboard. You are responsible for all information disseminated via Blackboard and/or email. If you primarily use a non-WUSTL email account, please set up email forwarding. I will respond to email during normal working hours, typically 9 am to 5 pm on weekdays. While I will do my best to respond to your email in a timely fashion, please do not send me an email on Sunday evening or an hour before an exam and expect an immediate response.

5 Evaluation

Your final grade is a weighted average of the following components, described in detail below:

- Attendance/Participation: 15%
- In-Class Assignments: 20% (10% each)
- Paper: 15%

- Exam 1: 25%
- Exam 2: 25%

5.1 Grading Scale

A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	59 and below

5.2 Attendance/Participation

The study of human rights is best understood through discussion and evaluation of alternative perspectives. Participation in class discussion increases active learning. While this class will have a lecture component, there will also be opportunities for participation in classroom discussion. As such, it is vital that you come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings for the day.

I will take attendance randomly throughout the semester. I will also take note of how regularly you participate in class, both in productive and distractive ways. Your base attendance and participation grade will be based on the proportion of times I take attendance and you are in class. Then, I will adjust your grade up or down depending on your participation. In order to receive full points, it is highly recommended that you come to class prepared and willing to participate; merely showing up and occupying a seat will not constitute full participation. Other ways to lose participation points are: being a disruption to others (e.g. side conversations with friends, reading for other classes), repeatedly failing to answer questions if called upon, and not participating in classroom discussions in a productive manner.

5.3 In-Class Activities

You will have two in-class activities, one on October 16th and a second on November 11th. The assignment will be explained in detail at the beginning of the class period or prior to October 16th and November 11th. A short follow-up writing assignment is required to receive full credit for the in-class activities. Unless there is an emergency, there will be NO make-up for in-class assignments because group participation is an important component of your grade. If you miss class on one of these days, you will receive a zero for the assignment completed on the day you missed.

5.4 Paper

You are required to write an 8-10 page paper (double-spaced, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins, 11 point font) in this course. Further details on paper topics will be given in addenda to this syllabus at the end of the second week of the semester.

5.5 Exams

All students will take two exams, consisting of a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. The exams will be based on class lectures, assigned readings, and class discussion. Study guides will be posted prior to the exam. The dates for the exams are listed on the accompanying course calendar.

6 Administrative Policies

6.1 Absences from Exams and Late Work

If you cannot attend one of the exams, you need to notify me as soon as possible by email or in person. Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness or emergencies. Makeup exams and late assignments will be allowed in the case of an extraordinary circumstance if accompanied by sufficient documentation within two days after the exam or assignment is due. If any assignment is submitted late and without proper documentation, students will receive no credit for the assignment.

6.2 Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

- Turn off your phone BEFORE class begins. You will not be penalized for a single accident of forgetting to turn off your phone and having it ring during class, but do not let this happen repeatedly.
- You MAY use a laptop during lectures. However, those caught using laptops for messaging, internet browsing, gaming, or other non-course purposes will lose this privilege.
- Use of earbuds/earphones is prohibited.
- NO electronic devices of any kind are to be powered up or visible during an exam. Violation of this rule will result in an automatic zero on the exam.

6.3 Assignment Review

If you are concerned about your grade on an assignment, I am happy to review it. However, I require that you (1) wait 24 hours after the assignment has been returned to you to request review, and (2) outline your concerns about the assignment grade via email, explaining to me why you believe your grade should be changed. Please be aware that I will regrade the entire assignment (not just one portion of it) if you request review, and I reserve the right to raise or *lower* your grade after reviewing it.

6.4 Classroom Courtesy

- Entering and leaving the classroom once class has started is distracting to me and to other students. If you must leave early or for a moment, please sit near an exit and leave as quietly as possible (i.e. do not let the door slam).
- Please be respectful of others' opinions and treat others with respect in the classroom. Repeated failure to demonstrate classroom courtesy will result in a reduction of your final grade.

7 Academic Integrity

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. I encourage you to review the University's policies regarding academic honesty, which are available at: <http://www.wustl.edu/policies/undergraduate-academic-integrity.html>.

8 Americans with Disabilities Act

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Disability Resources Office; and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For more information about services available to Washington University students with disabilities, contact:

Disability Resource Office
Washington University St. Louis
Campus Box 1135

One Brookings Drive
St. Louis, MO 63130
(314) 935-5970
cornerstone@wustl.edu
<http://cornerstone.wustl.edu/DisabilityResources.aspx/>

9 Syllabus Change Policy

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

10 Class Schedule

Week 1 - Historical Background

Tuesday, August 26th: INTRODUCTION TO COURSE AND DISCUSSION OF SYLLABUS

- No Required Reading

Thursday, August 28th: HISTORY AND ORIGINS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

- Lauren, Paul Gordon. 1998. "Visions and the Birth of Human Rights." In *The Evolution of Human Rights*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, pp. 4-36. (Blackboard)
- Hunt, Lynn. 2007. "Ch. 4 - There Will be No End to It: The Consequences of Declaring." In *Inventing Human Rights: A History*. New York: Norton, pp. 146-175. (Blackboard)

Week 2 - Historical Background

Tuesday, September 2nd: INSTITUTIONAL ORIGINS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

- Lauren, Paul Gordon. 1998. "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights." In *The Evolution of Human Rights*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, pp. 199-232. (Blackboard)
- Hunt, Lynn. 2007. "Ch. 5 - The Soft Power of Humanity: Why Human Rights Failed, Only to Succeed in the Long Run." In *Inventing Human Rights: A History*. New York: Norton, pp. 176-214. (Blackboard)

Thursday, September 4th: MODERN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- Forsythe, David P. 2001. "Ch. 3 - Global Application of Human Rights Norms" AND "Ch. 4 - International Criminal Courts." *Human Rights in International Relations*. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 57-79 and 85-93. (Blackboard)

Week 3 - Historical Background / Human Rights Violations

Tuesday, September 9th: HUMAN RIGHTS AND THEORY OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Forsythe, David P. 2001. "Ch. 1 - Introduction: Human Rights in International Relations" *Human Rights in International Relations*. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 3-27. (Blackboard)
- Abbott, Kenneth W. and Duncan Snidal. 2000. "Hard and Soft Law in International Governance." *International Organization* 54: 421-456. (Blackboard)

Thursday, September 11th: THE STATE DECISION TO REPRESS

- Davenport, Christian. 2007. "State Repression and Political Order." *Annual Review of Political Science* 10: 1-23. (Blackboard)

Week 4 - Human Rights Violations

Tuesday, September 16th: COMPARATIVE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

- Landman, Todd. "Comparative Politics and Human Rights." *Human Rights Quarterly* 24(4): 890-923. (Blackboard)
- Poe, Stephen and C. Neal Tate. 1994. "Human Rights and Repression to Personal Integrity in the 1980s: A Global Analysis." *American Political Science Review* 88: 853-872. (Blackboard)

Thursday, September 18th: DOMESTIC POLITICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS - REGIME TYPE

- Bueno de Mesquita, B, G.W. Downs, A. Smith, and F. M. Cherif. 2005. "Thinking Inside the Box: A Closer Look at Democracy and Human Rights." *International Studies Quarterly* 49(30): 439-445. PAGES 439-445 and 456. (Blackboard)
- Davenport, Christian. 1999. "Human Rights and the Democratic Proposition." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 43(1): 92-116. (Blackboard)

Week 5 - Protecting Rights

Tuesday, September 23rd: DOMESTIC POLITICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS - ELECTIONS

- Richards, David and Ronald Gelleny. 2007. "Good Things Come to Those Who Wait? National Elections and Government Respect for Human Rights." *Journal of Peace Research* 44: 505-523. (Blackboard)
- Cingranelli, David and Mikhail Filippov. 2010. "Electoral Rules and Incentives to Protect Human Rights." *Journal of Politics* 72: 243-257. (Blackboard)

Thursday, September 25th: DOMESTIC POLITICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS - CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES AND VETO POINTS

- Keith, Linda Camp, C. Neal Tate, Steven C. Poe. "Is the Law a Mere Parchment Barrier to Human Rights Abuse?" *Journal of Politics* 71(2): 644-660. (Blackboard)
- Conrad, Courtenay Ryals and Will H. Moore. 2010. "What Stops the Torture?" *American Journal of Political Science* 54(2): 459-476. (Blackboard)

Week 6 - Protecting Rights

Tuesday, September 30th: DOMESTIC POLITICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS - JUDICIARY

- Keith, Linda Camp. 2002. "Judicial Independence and Human Rights Protection Around the World." *Judicature* 85(4): 195-200. (Blackboard)
- Cross, Frank B. 1999. "The Relevance of Law in Human Rights Protection." *International Review of Law and Economics* 19:87-98. (Blackboard)

Thursday, October 2nd: Exam Review and Catch-Up

Week 7 - Protecting Rights

Tuesday, October 7th: **EXAM 1**

Thursday, October 9th - No Class (Instructor away at Annual Peace Science Society International Conference)

Week 8 - Protecting Rights

Tuesday October 14th: INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

- Simmons, Beth. 2009. "Ch. 2 - Why International Law? The Development of the International Human Rights Regime in the Twentieth Century." In *Mobilizing for Human Rights: International Law in Domestic Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 23-56. (Blackboard)
- Moravcsik, Andrew. 2000. "The Origins of International Human Rights Regimes: Democratic Delegation in Postwar Europe." *International Organization* 54(2): 217-252. (Blackboard)

Thursday, October 16th: INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS - **IN CLASS ACTIVITY**

- "International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights," Available online at: <http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/ccpr.aspx>.
- "International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights," Available online at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/cescr.aspx>.

Week 9 - Protecting Rights

Tuesday, October 21st: INTERNATIONAL COURTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

- Sikkink, Kathryn. "Ch. 4 - The Streams of the Justice Cascade," and "Ch. 6 - Global Deterrence and Human Rights Prosecutions," and "Ch. 8 - Policy, Theory, and the Justice Cascade." In *The Justice Cascade*. New York, Norton, pp 96-128, 162-188, and 225-262. (Blackboard)

Thursday, October 23rd: INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE

- Hafner-Burton, Emilie M. 2008. "Sticks and Stones: The Efficacy of Human Rights Naming and Shaming." *International Organization* 62(4): 689-716. (Blackboard)
- Hafner-Burton, Emilie M. 2005. "Trading Human Rights: How Preferential Trade Agreements Influence Government Repression." *International Organization* 59: 593-629. (Blackboard)

Week 10 - Protecting Rights

Tuesday, October 28th: INTERNATIONAL LAW AND DOMESTIC POLITICS

- Simmons, Beth. 2009. "Ch. 4 - Theories of Compliance." In *Mobilizing for Human Rights: International Law in Domestic Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 112-155.

Thursday, October 30th: INTERNATIONAL LAW AND DOMESTIC POLITICS

- Vreeland, James Raymond. 2008. "Political Institutions and Human Rights: Why Dictatorships enter into the United Nations Conventions Against Torture." *International Organizations* 62(1): 65-101 (Read only pages 65-80). (Blackboard)
- Powell, Emilia J. and Jeffrey K. Staton. 2009. "Domestic Judicial Institutions and Human Rights Treaty Violation." *International Studies Quarterly* 53(1): 149-174. (Read only pages 149-158). (Blackboard)

Week 11 - A Focus on Violations - Torture

Tuesday, November 4th: WHAT IS TORTURE? WHO TORTURES?

- Shulz, William F. 2009. "Torture." In *Human Rights: Politics and Practice*, ed. Michael Goodhart. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp 297-315. (Blackboard)

Thursday, November 6th: TORTURE AND DEMOCRACY

- Rejali, Darius. 2007. *Torture and Democracy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 8-25 and 35-63. (Blackboard)
- Ill-Treatment and Torture (ITT) Data Collection Project Coding Rules. (Blackboard)

Week 12 - A Focus on Violations - Torture

Tuesday, November 11th: TORTURE AND TERROR II - IN CLASS ACTIVITY

- Bravin, Jess. 2007. "The Conscience of the Colonel," *The Wall Street Journal*, 31 March. (Blackboard)
- Bowden, Mark. 2007. "The Point: In Defense of Waterboarding," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 26 December 2007. (Blackboard)

Thursday, November 13th: TORTURE AND TERROR II

- DISCUSSION & FILM: *Taxi to the Dark Side*
- Mayer, Jane. 2008. "Ch. 6 - Outsourcing Torture," and "Ch. 7 - Inside the Black Sites," and "Ch. 9 - The Memo," and "Ch. 11 - Blowback." In *The Dark Side*. New York. Random Books, pp. 101-187, 213-237, and 261-294. (Blackboard)

Week 13 - A Focus on Violations - Torture

Tuesday, November 18th: TORTURE AND TERROR II

- DISCUSSION & FILM: Taxi to the Dark Side
- Mayer, Jane. 2008. "Ch. 6 - Outsourcing Torture," and "Ch. 7 - Inside the Black Sites," and "Ch. 9 - The Memo," and "Ch. 11 - Blowback." In *The Dark Side*. New York: Random Books, pp. 101-187, 213-237, and 261-294. (Blackboard)

Thursday, November 20th: WOMEN'S RIGHTS AS HUMAN RIGHTS

- Bunch, Charlotte. 1990. "Women's Rights as Human Rights: Toward a Re-Vision of Human Rights." *Human Rights Quarterly* 12(4): 486-498. (Blackboard)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Available at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/econvention.htm>

Week 14 - A Focus on Violations - Women's Rights (Violence Against Women)

Tuesday, November 25th: TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN

- Bertone, Andrea. "Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation." In *Human Rights: Politics and Practice*, ed. Michael Goodhart. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp 201-218. (Blackboard)
- Kara, Siddharth. "Ch. 1 - Sex Trafficking: An Overview" and "Ch. 8 - A Framework for Abolition: Risk and Demand." In *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*. New York: Columbia University Press, pp. 1-44 and 200-219. (Blackboard)

Thursday, November 27th - No Class - Thanksgiving Day

Week 15 - A Focus on Violations - Women's Rights (Violence Against Women)

Tuesday, December 2nd: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- FILM: Half the Sky
- True, Jacqui. 2012. "Ch. 1 - From Domestic Violence to War Crimes" and "Ch. 2 - What has Poverty Got to do With It?" In *The Political Economy of Violence Against Women*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 3-33. (Blackboard)

Thursday, December 4th: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- FILM: Half the Sky
- Kristof, Nicholas and Sheryl WuDunn. 2009. "Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women." New York: Vintage Books, PAGES xi-xxii AND 61-92. (Blackboard)

FINAL EXAM: Monday, Dec. 15th: 1:00 - 3:00 pm