

Human Rights (in International Relations)

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Semester: *autumn 2010*
Codes: *POL 565 / POL 445*

Course Description

The course will introduce the main features of the contemporary human rights system. Based on the history and theory of human rights, the course will explain the emergence and expansion of international human rights standards. It will introduce the major international institutions and the processes by which human rights standards are established and enforced on the international, regional and national level. Finally it will examine the development of human rights in the context of international and national politics amid growing globalization. Individual course topics will be supplemented with concrete case studies.

Required Readings

Forsythe, David P. (2006). *Human Rights in International Relations*. 2nd ed. Cambridge University Press

Students are obliged to read indicated chapters of the required and further literature prior to each class in order to participate in the debate during the session. Please note that the readings are compulsory and inadequate preparation for the class shall be reflected in the final grade. Students are equally expected to follow the latest developments of international politics.

Course Objectives

Having completed this course, the students should be able to:

- Understand history, theory, purpose and categorisation of human rights;
- Recognize major international institutions and the processes by which human rights standards are established and enforced on the international, regional and national level;
- Analyse the development and enforcement of human rights in the context of international and national politics;
- Analyse concrete cases of human rights violations and their solutions;
- Discuss possibilities of further development of human rights in the context of changing international relations; advancing globalization and weakening notion of state sovereignty in particular.

Content of the Course

Week 1	<i>Introduction to the course</i>
Week 2	<i>Theory and history of human rights</i>
Week 3	<i>Actors in the field of human rights; the role of NGOs and MNCs</i>
Week 4	<i>Categorization of human rights</i>
Week 5	<i>Human rights protection on the national level</i>
Week 6	<i>The United Nations and the internationalization of human rights standards</i>
Week 7	<i>Regional arrangements for human rights protection</i>
Week 8	<u><i>Midterm exam</i></u>
Week 9	Mid-term Break
Week 10	<i>Judicial enforcement</i>
Week 11	<i>Political enforcement – humanitarian intervention</i>
Week 12	<i>Human rights in non-western traditions</i>
Week 13	<i>Human rights in foreign policy</i>
Week 14	<i>Globalisation & the future development of human rights protection</i>
Week 15	<u><i>Final exam</i></u>

Course Requirements

The course will be graded on the basis of:

Final test 40%

Midterm test 30%

Short essay & presentation 20%

Class preparation, participation and attendance 10%

Final and midterm tests: The midterm test will assess the progress of students in the first half of the course. The final test will be comprehensive and students will be responsible for all the topics covered in class as well as the assigned readings. The format of the tests will be reviewed in class.

Short Essay & Presentation: Students will make a short presentation in front of the classroom accompanied with the power point presentation and one page outline. Topics and deadlines shall be discussed at the beginning of semester. Assignments must be word-processed and submitted electronically and in printed version. Missing a deadline means failing this part of the course requirement; there shall be no extensions of deadlines. Any form of plagiarism will be severely punished and may result in failing an entire course

Class preparation, participation and attendance: This part includes the evaluation of regular preparation and participation on a weekly basis. It shall consist of an evaluation of the student's verbal participation throughout the whole semester. In addition short tests of the reviewed material might be given during the lectures and the students might be asked to apply knowledge from a required reading to a specific question. Attendance of the classes is compulsory and missing classes or coming late to classes will result in a lower mark.

Important note: The final grade will be a sum of the above mentioned requirements and it is not possible to pass the course unless all of the assignments are completed. Furthermore, if you fail more than one assignment during the course, you will not receive a passing grade. There are no retakes of any partial assignments.

The grades: The grades for partial and overall evaluation will be as follows:

- 1 (A): 88 - 100%
- 2 (B): 74 - 87%
- 3 (C): 64 - 73%
- 4 (F): 0 - 63% (failed)

General Requirements

- Class attendance is compulsory. In the event of illness or emergency, contact your instructor in advance to determine whether special arrangements are possible. Missing classes or coming late to classes will result in a lower mark.
- The use of laptop computers, mobile phones or any other electronic devices is forbidden.
- Any disruptive activity e.g. late arrival, chat, eating, using mobile phones etc. will result in a lower mark.
- Any academic dishonesty including cheating, plagiarism, submitting false information will be severely punished and may result in failure of the entire course.
- The level of written and spoken English must be acceptable. Frequent grammatical errors will result in a lower mark.
- Students are assumed to follow political developments in mass media that could be related to the course. They are also expected to consult various journals and dailies for recent events.

Additional Readings

Alston, Philip, MacDonald, Euan (2008). *Human rights, intervention, and the use of force* (Collected Courses of the Academy of European Law). Oxford: Oxford University

Barratt, Bethany (2008). *Human rights and foreign aid: for love or money?* London: Routledge

Bellamy, Alex J. (2009). *A Responsibility to protect: the global effort to end mass atrocities*. Cambridge: Polity

Forrest, Francisco M., Schnably, Stephen J., Wilson, Richard J., Simon, Jonathan S., Tushnet Mark V. (2006). *International human rights and humanitarian law*. New York: Cambridge University Press

Gearty, Conor (2006). *Can human rights survive?* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Goold, Benjamin J. (2007), *Security and human rights*. Oxford: Hart

Kurasawa, Fuyuki (2007). *The Work of global justice: human rights as practices*. Cambridge: Cambridge University

Rehman, Javaid, Breau, Susan C. (2007). *Religion, human rights and international law: a critical examination of Islamic state practices*. Leiden: Martinus Nijhoff

Sharma, Arvin (2006). *Are human rights western? : A contribution to the dialogue of civilizations*. Oxford: Oxford University