



CEA GlobalCampus: Rome
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Human Rights: Universal Principles in World Politics

UNH Course number: POL350

Class meeting: Tuesdays, 13.00 – 15.45

Instructor: Gabriele Simoncini

Subject Areas: Political Science, International Relations

Level: 300

Prerequisites: None

Language of Instruction: English

Contact Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Description: The course provides a survey and analysis of political, economic, social, and cultural aspects of human rights; the problems and challenges of setting and upholding universal standards of respect for international human rights in contemporary world politics. Particular consideration will be given to the difficult tasks of defining and protecting universal principles of human rights, of considering the different cultural and theoretical approaches to these rights, and of creating effective methods of monitoring and enforcing human rights standards.

The historical, cultural and ideological background of human rights will be reviewed and the specific content and interpretation of today's internationally recognized human rights treaties and conventions will be closely analyzed. Emphasis, therefore, will be placed upon the human rights framework of the United Nations and on the role and significance of the recently created Human Rights Council. The more successful regional and non-governmental attempts to codify and enforce standards of human rights protection will also be studied, and to enhance your progress in this area you will enjoy the unique opportunity to meet and talk with guest speakers from Human Rights organizations in Rome.

This vigorous course offers a range of dynamic activities, from illustrated lectures, class discussions, your own collaborative presentations and personal portfolios to field trips, guest speakers, and film screenings, in order to develop the skills required to critically analyze the processes, concepts and cultural contexts of global human rights. Furthermore, in order to exploit and explore the new and ever-growing range of digital media adopted by international organizations to publicize and further their campaigns, you will learn how to make extensive personal use of information and communication technology.

Learning Objectives:

- To critically analyze processes and concepts of global human rights
- to relate politics, events, and players within the global arena.
- To be able to contextualize and explain the process of global human right development, related political phenomena and to be able to relate them to current human rights politics.
- To critically analyse the changing realities of global human rights.

Instructional Format: This course will meet once a week for three hours. The class format includes lectures, discussions, presentations, and audiovisual materials. Experiential learning integrates lectures with teamwork, student presentations, portfolios, field trips, guest speakers, and movie screenings. You are also requested to make extensive use of Information and Communication Technology.

Form of Assessment: The instructor will use numerous and differentiated forms of assessment to calculate the final grade you receive for this course. The content, criteria and specific requirements for each assessment category will be explained in greater detail in class. However, you must complete all grading assessment categories to receive a grade for this course. In addition, your work and behavior in this course must fully conform to the regulations of the CEA *Academic Integrity Policy* to which you are subject. Your instructor may also require that you hand in an electronic copy of such work.

Class Participation	10%
Research project proposal & annotated bibliography	10%
Presentation & other assignments	15%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final exam	20%
Final project with portfolio	30%

Class Participation (10%): The grade will be calculated to reflect your participation in class discussions, your capacity to introduce ideas and thoughts dealing with the texts, your ability to interpret different uses of literary language and to express your analysis in intellectual, constructive argumentation. When determining your class participation grade, traditional criteria such as material preparation, completed reading before class, and collaborative group work are also evaluated. But it is the active, meaningful and informed verbal and written contribution that you make that is most important to your overall participation grade. Whereas attendance and punctuality are expected and will not count positively towards the grade, laxity in these areas will have a negative effect on your grade. The instructor will use the following specific criteria when calculating your class participation grade:

Criteria for Assessing Class Participation	Grade
You make major and original contributions that spark discussion, offering both critical and analytical comments clearly based on readings and research and displaying a working knowledge of theoretical issues.	A+ 97-100
You make significant contributions that demonstrate insight as well as knowledge of required readings and independent research.	A-/A 90-96.9
You make useful contributions and participate voluntarily, which are usually based upon some reflection and familiarity with required readings.	B/B+ 84-89.9
You make voluntarily but infrequent comments that generally reiterate the basic points of the required readings.	C+/B- 77-83.9
You make limited comments only when prompted and do not initiate debate or show a clear awareness of the importance of the readings.	C 74-76.9
You very rarely make comments and resist engagement with the subject, attending class having manifestly done little if any preparation.	D+/C- 67-73.9
You are unable to make useful comments and contributions, being occasionally absent from, generally passive in, and unprepared for class.	D/D- 60-66.9
You make irrelevant and tangential comments disruptive to class discussion, a result of frequent absence and complete un-preparedness.	F Below 60

Two in-class Exams: (midterm exam and final exam). Midterm and final exams have the same format. The exams consist of two parts of equal value. The first part is an essay, chosen from one of three proposed themes. The second part of the exam consists of ten terms to be concisely defined.

Research project proposal & annotated bibliography: To be handed in during week 4. The first stage of this project is a formal proposal identifying your topic, scope, approach and objectives. You will identify a particular question or political "problem" and offer a way of answering/solving it. Your research proposal must be accompanied by an annotated bibliography (that is, accompanied by your written comments on the origins, value and limitations of your sources) identifying key sources and how you plan to use them.

Final Project (Paper) with a Portfolio: The final paper (3,000 words) will be based on your research project proposal and its annotated bibliography. In order to produce your final paper you will keep a portfolio of research materials during the semester. The final paper and the portfolio will both be assessed at the end of the course.

Presentation: You are required to give an individual or team presentation on a specific topic of your choice related to the class program. The presentation will be well-organized, concise, and include (when opportune) audiovisual and electronic materials. Your grade will especially take into consideration accuracy and clarity of content.

CEA Attendance Policy:

A maximum of two weeks of accumulated absences due to sickness, personal emergency, inevitable transport delay and other related impediments will be tolerated. Your final grade will drop one full letter grade (e.g. A- to B-) for each additional class missed beyond this two week period, regardless of the reason for your absence. You will automatically fail the course if your absences exceed three weeks of class. In all cases, students must maintain full time student status and attend at least 12 hours of class every week. The Dean and

Program Director will dismiss from all CEA courses, programs, activities and housing any student who fails to maintain fulltime status.

Required Readings: The required course textbooks listed below are available for purchase at the Anglo American Book Company, via della Vite, 102. You must have constant access to these texts for reading, highlighting and marginal note-taking. It is required that you have a personal copy of each. Additional copies will be placed on-reserve in the Resource Center for short-term loans. Periodical literature, articles, documents, maps, digital images and other sundry materials also required for your class are available in PDF or Word format, are stored in the e-course file assigned to each class, and are located on the CEA shared drive for in-house consultation or copying to your own USB flash-drive. You will be required to use these resources throughout your studies. Direct access to additional resources and databanks are available to you through the online library of the University of New Haven (please consult your handbook). In addition, the Academic Coordinator compiles a bank of detailed information about the libraries located here in the city and accessible to CEA GlobalCampus students.

- Donnelly J., International Human Rights. Westview, 2007. pp. 247.
- Smith R. K. M., Textbook on International Human Rights. Oxford, 2007. pp. 367.

Recommended Readings:

The following source is available at the CEA library:

- The Economist, On Human Rights. 2008.
- The International Herald Tribune, On Human Rights. 2008

*Throughout the syllabus, **assigned readings** will come from The Economist and from contemporary journals or newspapers depending on the progress of the class, your personal research interests, and current Human Rights issues.*

The following sources are available at the CEA resource center:

- Alston P., Goodman R., Steiner H. J., International Human Rights in Context: Law, Politics, Morals. Oxford 2007. pp. 1560.
- Churchill R. P., Human Rights and Global Diversity. London, 2005. pp. 176.
- Clapman A., Human Rights: A very Short Introduction. Oxford, 2007. pp. 144.
- Ghandhi P. R., Blackstone's International Human Rights Documents. Oxford, 2006. pp. 532.
- Ishay M., The History of Human Rights: from Ancient Times to the Globalization Era. San Francisco, 2004. pp. 480.
- Maxwell J. A., Friedberg J. J., Human Rights in Western Civilization: 1600 to Present. New York, 1999. pp. 328.
- Human Right Watch, Human Rights Watch World Report 2008. London, 2007. pp. 592.

Online Reference & Research Tools:

<http://www.un.org/rights>
<http://www.hrw.org>
<http://www.hrweb.org>
<http://www.humanrightsnights.org>
<http://www.minorityrights.org>
<http://www.eurac.edu/miris>

Required Supplies/Fees:

NONE

Human Rights

Course Content:

Session	Topic	Activity	Student Assignments
1 (Sep 1)	Introduction. Methodology. Definitions. The Concept of Human Rights.		Assigned readings from The Economist, journals or newspapers.
2 (Sep 8)	Human Rights in World Politics. International Human Rights Norms.	Film	Donnelly. P. 1-20; Assigned readings.
3 (Sep 15)	Historical Background. The nature of Human Rights. Theories of Human Rights.	Reports	Smith, p. 1-23; Donnelly. p. 20-36; Assigned readings.
4 (Sep 22)	The United Nations. The International Bill of Human Rights. The Relative Universality of Human Rights.	Field Trip	Smith, p. 24-48; Donnelly, p. 37-58; Assigned readings.
5 (Sep 29)	U.N. Organizational Structure. Regional Protection of Human Rights. Domestic Politics of Human Rights.	Guest Speaker	Smith, p. 49-79; Donnelly, p. 59-78; Assigned readings.
6 (Oct 6)	Human Rights in Europe, America, and Africa. Multilateral Politics of Human rights.	Presentations. Review	Smith, p. 80-124; Donnelly, p. 79-114; Assigned readings.
7 (Oct 13)	Midterm Examination	Exam	
8 (Oct 27)	Monitoring, Implementing, and Enforcing Human Rights. Human Rights and Foreign Policy.	Presentations	Smith, p. 125-162; Donnelly, p. 115-148; Assigned readings.
9 (Nov 3)	Substantive Rights. Equality and Non-Discrimination. The Impact of International Action.	Presentations	Smith, p. 163-193; Donnelly, p. 149-170; Assigned readings.
10 (Nov 10)	The Right to Life. Freedom from Torture. Right to Liberty of Person. Umanitarian Intervention against Genocide.	Field Trip	Smith, p. 194-234; Donnelly, p. 171-196; Assigned readings.
11 (Nov 17)	Equality before the Law. The Right to Self-	Reports	Smith, p. 235-266; Donnelly, p. 197-210;

	Determination. Globalization, the State, and Human Rights.		Assigned readings.
12 (Nov 24)	Freedom of Expression. The Right to Work. The Right to Non- Discrimination. Sexual Minorities.	Guest Speaker	Smith, p. 267-289; Assigned readings.
13 (Dec 1)	The Right to Education. Minority Rights. Terrorism and Human Rights.	Film	Smith, p. 290-348; Assigned readings.
14 (Dec 8)	Globalization, the State, and Human Rights.	Presentations. Review	Assigned readings.
15 (Dec 15)	Final Examination	Exam	