



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 481 L01
THE POLITICS OF HUMAN RIGHTS
FALL 2019**

INSTRUCTOR: Mark Machacek
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OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Wed-Fri 1100-1200 or by appointment
WEBSITE: <http://d2l.ucalgary.ca>
COURSE DAY/TIME: Mon-Wed-Fri 1000-1050
COURSE LOCATION: PF 128
COURSE PRE-REQUISITES: One of POLI 310, 359 or 381

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this lecture-based course is to introduce and critically engage with the evolution, theories and practices of contemporary human rights. Students are strongly encouraged to actively discuss and debate contemporary issues of human rights, including the challenges to, and constraints on, their universal recognition and enjoyment. Understanding the particular origins of human rights and the debates and political context surrounding them are the underlying themes of the course.

This course will begin with an introduction to the ideas of human rights, working definitions and the core concepts, issues and main debates related to human rights. It will then turn its attention to discussing the ways in which human rights are understood and analysed from the perspectives of Comparative Politics and International Relations and will explore the challenges posed by their critics. The primary actors and legal frameworks within the international human rights regime will also be highlighted. The final section of the course will focus on particular human rights issues, including Indigenous rights, women and LGBTQ+ community rights, refugee rights, the use of torture, the act of genocide and humanitarian intervention.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The objectives of this course are to:

- Introduce students to the core concepts, questions, critiques and theories of human rights and provide in-depth insight into human rights as a politicized process;
- Acquaint students with the primary actors, institutions and legal frameworks in the contemporary human rights regime and their historical evolution;
- Facilitate theoretically-informed discussions and debates on contemporary human rights issues;

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- Strengthen skills in academic analysis, discussion, research and writing

Upon completion of this course students should be able to:

- Engage in informed discussion on current human rights issues and debates;
- Understand the complexity of contemporary human rights issues and their challenges;
- Apply various theoretical perspectives to human rights issues;
- Conduct effective academic debate, research and writing

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S):

Goodhart, Michael (2016). *Human Rights: Politics and Practice*, Third Edition. New York: Oxford University Press.

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES:

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Mid-Term Exam	30%	Wednesday Oct. 16 th , 2019
Written Assignment	30%	Monday Nov. 18 th , 2019
Final Exam	40%	Scheduled by the Registrar (Dec. 9-19, 2019)
Total	100%	

COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS: The schedule is tentative and may change as the need arises.

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Introduction		
Week 1 Sept. 6	Introduction and course overview	No readings
Sept. 9-13	Introducing Human Rights -Discussion of the core concepts, issues and debates around human rights	Textbook Introduction & Chapter 1
Understanding and Analysing Human Rights		
Week 2 Sept. 16-20	Challenging and Measuring Human Rights -Dissecting the critiques of human rights and outlining the methods used for	Textbook Chapters 7 & 8

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	human rights monitoring	
Week 3 Sept. 23-27	Comparative Politics and Human Rights	Textbook Chapter 5
Week 4 Sept. 30-Oct. 4	International Relations and Human Rights	Textbook Chapter 3
Week 5 Oct. 7-11	The International Human Rights Regime -Outlining the primary international human rights actors and legal structures	Textbook Chapters 4 & 9
Human Rights Issues		
Week 6 Oct. 14 Oct. 16 Oct. 19	No class Mid-Term Exam Human Rights in Development -Discussing the relationship between human rights and international development and the 'right to development'	Textbook Chapter 12
Week 7 Oct. 21-25	Indigenous Rights -Exploring the evolution and nature of Indigenous peoples' rights	Textbook Chapter 19
Week 8 Oct. 28-Nov. 1	Forced Migrant and Refugee Rights -Outlining the rights of refugees and other forced migration populations	Textbook Chapter 18
Week 9 Nov. 4-8	Women and LGBTQ+ Rights -Exploring the evolution and nature of the rights of women and LGBTQ+ communities	Textbook Chapters 2 & 11
Week 10 Nov. 10-16		Reading Week No Classes
Week 11 Nov. 18-22	Assignment Due Torture -Discussing the human rights issues surrounding the use of torture	Textbook Chapter 15
Week 12	Genocide	Textbook Chapter 20

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Nov. 25-29	-Discussing genocide as a human rights violation	
Week 13 Dec. 2-4	Enforcing Human Rights: Humanitarian Intervention -Outlining the debates and issues around humanitarian intervention for human rights protection	Textbook Chapter 14 & 21
Dec. 6	Overview of course	

MID-TERM EXAMINATION (30%)

The mid-term exam will be 50 mins and will be conducted in class. The exam will be closed book, with no study aids or notes permitted during the exam. It will consist of 4 short answer questions where students will have the opportunity to choose from a list of questions. All the material covered in the required readings and lectures is eligible to be on the exam. The quality and clarity of writing will be an important component of the grading criteria.

Further information for the mid-term exam will be provided in class Wednesday Oct. 9th.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT (30%)

Students will be expected to conduct research and write a 10-12 page (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font) paper on a human rights issue of the students choosing. The research paper is expected to outline and offer a theoretically-informed evaluation of at least one debate surrounding the issue (i.e. on the use of torture; on the definition of a ‘refugee’). Students should consult with the instructor regarding their issue of choice no later than Friday October 19th, 2019.

Students are expected to collect relevant perspectives of their issue through research of at least 10 academic sources (i.e. peer-reviewed journals, books, book chapters). Sources are to be cited using either APA, MLA or Chicago citation style. Papers are to be submitted in hard copy in class Monday November 18th, 2019.

The paper will be graded according to the student’s demonstrated research on the human rights issue, their understanding and articulation of the debate(s) surrounding the issue, the application of theory to evaluate the debate(s), paper organization and writing proficiency.

Further information for the paper will be provided in class Friday October 4th, 2019.

FINAL EXAMINATION (40%)

The cumulative final exam will be 2 hours long and will be scheduled by the Registrar. The exam will be closed book, with no study aids or notes permitted during the exam. It will consist of two parts: 3 short answer questions and 1 long answer question. In both sections, students will have the opportunity to choose from a list of questions. All the material covered in the required readings and lectures throughout the course is eligible to be on the exam. The quality and clarity of writing will be an important component of the grading criteria.

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Further information for the final exam will be provided in class Friday Nov. 29th.

Writing Statement:

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, including this one, and the quality of writing skills, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity, citation, and organization, will be taken into account in the determination of grades. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre (3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library) or at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

GRADE SCALE: The following grading scale will be used:

A+ (95-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (55-59)
A (86-94)	B (73-76)	C (63-66)	D (50-54)
A- (80-85)	B- (70-72)	C- (60-62)	F (0-49)

LATE PENALTIES

For the written assignment, late submissions will receive a grade penalty of 5% for each day that they are late. The 5% per day penalty will not be applied to weekend days.

INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during class or their office hours. Should you wish to meet outside of office hours, please telephone or email to make an appointment. It is to the student's advantage to keep such appointments.

Email is a common form of communication but it is not always the most effective way of answering student questions. If you cannot make office hours, please request a one on one meeting outside of these hours.

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course. Please be considerate of others and switch off all cell phones when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts and browsing the Web is extremely disruptive to others and will not be tolerated.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration

As stated in the University Calendar:

Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, third party letter of support or a statutory declaration etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at ucalgary.ca/registrar). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are available to students at no charge, on campus. For a list of locations to access a Commissioner for Oaths, visit ucalgary.ca/registrar).

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

This statement is accessible at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

Please note that while the form of supporting documentation provided is at the discretion of the student, the instructor has the discretion not to accept the supporting documentation if it does not corroborate the reason(s) given for the exemption/special request.

Absence From a Mid-term Examination:

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

Deferral of a Final Examination:

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the

examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Appeals:

If a student has a concern about the course or a grade they have been assigned, they must first discuss their concerns with the instructor. If this does not resolve the matter, the student then proceed with an academic appeal. The first step in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with the Department Head. Appeals must be requested within 15 days of receipt of the graded assignment.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

University Regulations:

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the University policies found in the Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html.

Plagiarism And Other Forms Of Academic Misconduct:

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Copyright Legislation:

As stated in the University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, “students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright and requirements of the copyright act to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.”

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf> and <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>

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Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP):

FOIP legislation requires that instructors maintain the confidentiality of student information. In practice, this means that student assignment and tests cannot be left for collection in any public place without the consent of the student. It also means that grades cannot be distributed via email. Final exams are kept by instructors but can be viewed by contacting them or the main office in the Department of Political Science. Any uncollected assignments and tests meant to be returned will be destroyed after six months from the end of term; final examinations are destroyed after one year.

Evacuation Assembly Points:

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

For program planning and advice, visit the Arts Students' Centre in Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580 or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit arts.ucalgary.ca/advising for program assistance.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit their office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

Important Contact Information:

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)
Phone: 403-220-5333

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives

Phone: 403-220-6551

Email: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Students' Union URL: www.su.ucalgary.ca

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: askgsa@ucalgary.ca

URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca

Campus Mental Health Resources:

SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>