

POLI 481 (L01) The Politics of Human Rights

Pre/Co-Requisites: POLI 310, 359 or 381	
Instructor: Mark Machacek	Lecture Location: ST 126
Phone:	Lecture Days/Time: Tuesday & Thursday 16:00 – 18:45
Email: mark.machacek@ucalgary.ca	Office Hours: Virtual office hours using Zoom (D2L) Monday & Wednesday 3:00 – 4:00 or by appointment
Office: SS 721	Website: http://d2l.ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy: 09:00 – 17:00 Monday - Friday	

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this lecture-based course is to introduce and critically engage with the evolution, theories, practices and politics of contemporary human rights. During the lectures, students are strongly encouraged to actively discuss and debate contemporary issues of modern liberal human rights, including their universality, philosophical assumptions and relation to notions of 'social justice'.

This course will begin with an introduction to the idea of human rights, working definitions and relevant core concepts, issues and main debates. It will then turn its attention to the primary actors and legal frameworks within the international human rights regime. It will then outline 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 final section of the course will focus on particular human rights issues, including the right to development, 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;
- 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

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

Hard copies of the textbook can be purchased on-line from the University Bookstore (free shipping) using this purchase link: https://www.calgarybookstore.ca/buy_textbooks.asp?

E-text versions of the textbook can be purchased using this link:

<https://redshelf.com/book/1195394/human-rights-politics-and-practice-1195394-9780191069741-michael-goodhart>

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Mid-Term	30%	May 26 th
Research Paper	30%	June 7 th
Final Exam	40%	Scheduled by the Registrar (June 20 th – 22 nd)
Total	100%	

If a student misses a required course component, please get in touch the instructor as soon as possible.

COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Analyzing Human Rights		
May 5th	Introducing <i>Human Rights</i> -Introduction to the course and a discussion of the core concepts, issues and debates around human rights	Textbook Introduction & Chapter 1
May 10th	Challenging <i>Human Rights</i> -Engaging with the critiques of human rights Assignment Prep	Textbook Chapter 7
May 12th	The International Human Rights Regime -Outlining the primary international human rights actors and legal structures	Textbook Chapters 4 & 9
May 17th	International Relations & Human Rights	Textbook Chapter 3

	-Consider the int'l human rights regime from the perspective of IR theory	
May 19th	Comparative Politics & Human Rights -Includes outlining the methods for measuring and monitoring human rights	Textbook Chapter 5 & 8
Human Rights in Practice		
May 24th	Human Rights in Development Discussing the relationship between human rights and international development and the 'right to development'	Textbook Chapter 12
May 26th	Indigenous Rights Exploring the evolution and nature of Indigenous peoples' rights	Textbook Chapter 19
Mid-Term		
May 31st	Anti-Discrimination & Refugee Rights Outlining the rights of racial and ethnic minorities as well as refugees and other forcibly displaced	Textbook Chapter 18
June 2nd	Women & LGBTQ+ Rights Exploring the evolution and nature of the rights of women and LGBTQ+ communities	Textbook Chapters 2 & 11
June 7th	Workers Rights Considering labor rights in the context of economic globalization	Textbook Chapter 13
Assignment Due		
Major Human Rights Violations & Responses		
June 9th	Torture & Genocide Discussing the human rights issues surrounding the use of torture and the act of genocide	Textbook Chapter 15 & 20
June 14th	Enforcing Human Rights: Humanitarian Intervention Outlining the debates and	Textbook Chapter 14 & 21

	issues around humanitarian intervention for human rights protection	
June 16th	Course Overview & Final Exam Prep	No assigned readings

Please note that the above schedule is tentative and may change as the need arises.

MID-TERM EXAMINATION (30%)

The mid-term exam will consist of **3 short answer questions**. Students will have 60 mins to complete the exam during the regular class time on **Monday May 26th**. The exam will cover all the material in the required readings and lectures. It will be closed book, with no study aids or notes permitted during the exam. Further information for the mid-term will be provided in class on **Tuesday May 24th**.

RESEARCH PAPER (30%)

Students will be expected to conduct research and write a **10-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 by Tuesday May 24th (not mandatory, but strongly recommended for the student's benefit).

Students are expected to collect relevant perspectives of their issue through research of at least 12 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 to the D2L Assignment Dropbox no later than **11:59 pm on Tuesday June 7th**.

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 assignment, including a comprehensive grading rubric, will be provided in class on **Tuesday May 10th**.

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. 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.

WRITING STATEMENT

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, 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 by contacting them at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

GRADING SCALE: The following grading scale will be used:

A+ (91-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (55-59)
A (85-90)	B (73-76)	C (63-66)	D (50-54)
A- (80-84)	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 they are late. The 5% per day penalty will also 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 Commissioners 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>

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>.

Reappraisals

The University Calendar states that for reappraisals of graded term work:

“A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) has been unfairly graded, may have the work reappraised as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor **within ten business days** of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall take the matter to the head of the department offering the course **within 2 business days of receiving the decision from the instructor**, who will arrange for a reappraisal of the work **within the next ten business days**. The reappraisal will only be considered if the student provides a detailed rationale that outlines where and for what reason an error is suspected.” See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

The University Calendar states that for reappraisal of academic assessments (final grades):

“A student may request a reappraisal of a final grade. The only element that will be considered is the final assessment(s) that makes up the final mark (e.g., final examination, final project, and final paper). The exception is when a grade for a piece of graded term work is made available to students after the last day of classes for the term in which the course is scheduled; that grade may also be considered in a reappraisal of the final grade.”

“A student seeking a reappraisal of a final grade should first attempt to review the final assessment with the department or faculty offering the course. After which the student shall obtain a Reappraisal of Final Grade form from [ucalgary.ca/registrar](https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar) (under Student Forms). The student must indicate exactly what error was made in marking the final assessment and/or in computing the final grade. The reappraisal will only be considered if the student provides a detailed rationale that outlines where and for what reason an error is suspected.” More information is available at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

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.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>). 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.

SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities.

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.

Required Access to Technology

Please see the University's resource page at https://ucalgary.service-ow.com/it?id=kb_article&sys_id=86e7438013753ac06f3afbb2e144b031

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) 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/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.

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 Tower, MT 116..

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

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the following resources:

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

Student Wellness Services:
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>

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