



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 481 L01
THE POLITICS OF HUMAN RIGHTS
SUMMER 2020**

INSTRUCTOR: Mark Machacek

EMAIL: mark.machacek@ucalgary.ca

OFFICE HOURS: Virtual office hours using Zoom (D2L) Tuesday & Thursday 17:00-18:00 or by appointment

COURSE DAY/TIME: Tuesday & Thursday 16:00-17:00 using Zoom (D2L). Pre-recorded lectures for each class/topic will be posted to D2L at the beginning of each week

DELIVERY METHOD: Web

COURSE PRE-REQUISITES: One of POLI 310, 359 or 381

WEBSITE: <http://d2l.ucalgary.ca>

TEACHING ASSISTANTS: Reed Merrill

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this web-based course is to introduce and critically engage with the evolution, theories and practices of contemporary human rights. During the virtual Zoom lectures, students are strongly encouraged to actively discuss and debate contemporary issues of modern liberal human rights, including their universality, philosophical traditions and relation to notions of 'social justice'. Understanding the particular origins of human rights and the debates and political context surrounding them are the underlying themes of the course.

As a web-based course, course instruction will be conducted using two methods. First, at the beginning of each week, pre-recorded PowerPoint lecture videos will be posted to the Content section of D2L for each lecture topic. These topical lecture videos are meant for students to review prior to the live online lectures and throughout the semester. Second, synchronous live on-line lectures will be hosted using Zoom (hosted on D2L). These lectures will last one hour. Review this syllabus for lecture times.

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.

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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(S):

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://calgary-store.vitalsource.com/products/human-rights-politics-and-practice-michael-goodhart-v9780191069741>

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES:

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Mid-Term Exam	30%	July 21 st – July 23 rd
Research Assignment	30%	July 30 th
Take-Home Final Exam	40%	August 11 th – 16 th
Total	100%	

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

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Introduction		
June 30 th	Introducing <i>Human Rights</i> -Course overview and discussion of the core concepts, issues and debates around human rights	Textbook Introduction & Chapter 1

Understanding, Problematizing and Analysing Human Rights		
July 2 nd	Challenging <i>Human Rights</i> -Engaging with the critiques of human rights	Textbook Chapters 7
July 7 th	The International Human Rights Regime -Outlining the primary international human rights actors and legal structures	Textbook Chapters 4 & 9
July 9 th	Assignment Prep	No readings
July 14 th	Comparative Politics and Human Rights -Includes outlining the methods for measuring and monitoring human rights	Textbook Chapter 5 & 8
July 16 th	International Relations and Human Rights -Consider the int'l human rights regime from the perspective of IR theory	Textbook Chapter 3
Human Rights Issues		
July 21 st	Human Rights in Development -Discussing the relationship between human rights and international development and the 'right to development' Mid-Term Exam	Textbook Chapter 12
July 23 rd	Indigenous Rights -Exploring the evolution and nature of Indigenous peoples' rights	Textbook Chapter 19
July 28 th	Forced Migrant and Refugee Rights -Outlining the rights of refugees and other forced migration populations	Textbook Chapter 18
July 30 th	Women and LGBTQ+ Rights -Exploring the evolution and nature of the rights of women and LGBTQ+ communities	Textbook Chapters 2 & 11

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	Assignment Due	
August 4 th	Torture -Discussing the human rights issues surrounding the use of torture	Textbook Chapter 15
August 6 th	Genocide -Discussing genocide as a human rights violation	Textbook Chapter 20
August 11 th	Enforcing Human Rights: Humanitarian Intervention -Outlining the debates and issues around humanitarian intervention for human rights protection Take-Home Final Exam	Textbook Chapter 14 & 21

MID-TERM EXAM (30%)

The mid-term examination will be an open book exam posted on D2L following the scheduled online lecture on July 21st. It will be due in the D2L Mid-Term Exam Dropbox by July 23rd at 16:00. Submissions after this time will be subject to a 5% grade penalty.

The exam will consist of 3 long answer questions where students can choose from a list of questions. Students will be expected to write approximately 2 pages per question. All the material covered in the required readings, pre-recorded lectures and live online lectures will be eligible to be on the exam. The quality and clarity of writing will be an important component of the grading criteria.

Further information on the mid-term exam will be provided during the online lecture on July 16th, 2020.

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 July 9th.

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 to the D2L Assignment Dropbox no later than July 30th at 23:59.

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.

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Further information for the assignment, including a comprehensive grading rubric, will be provided in class July 9th.

TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAMINATION (40%)

The cumulative take-home final examination will be an open book exam posted on D2L following the scheduled online lecture on August 11th. It will be due in the D2L Final Exam Dropbox by August 16th at 23:59. Submissions after this time will be subject to a 5% grade penalty.

The exam will consist of 3 long answer questions. Students will be expected to write approximately 2 pages per question (double-spaced Word document) and include a title page. All the material covered in the required readings, pre-recorded lectures and live online lectures throughout the course is eligible to be on the exam. The clarity of writing will be an important component of the grading criteria.

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 by contacting them at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

GRADE 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, mid-term and take-home final exam, late submissions to Dropbox will receive a grade penalty of 5% and an additional 5% for each day that they are late following the submission due dates. 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. All meetings will be held virtually.

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, to be held virtually.

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>

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

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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.

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.

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>.

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>

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.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

For program planning and advice, please consult with the Arts Students' Centre by calling 403-220-3580 or by email at 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].

Important Contact Information:

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/>

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:

Student Wellness Services:

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

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