

POLI 481 (L01) The Politics of Human Rights	
Pre/Co-Requisites: POLI 310, 359 or 381	
Instructor: Erica Kunimoto	Lecture Location: MS 211
Phone:	Lecture Days/Time: MWF 1:00-1:50pm
Email: emkunimo@ucalgary.ca Mon-Friday 9:00-6:00pm	
Office: SS721	Office Hours: M/W 2:00-3:00pm or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the politics of human rights through the contentions, controversies, promises and pitfalls of human rights in theory and practice. Through our readings and course discussions, we will explore human rights in three parts, teasing out important questions that are opened up through our investigation:

- i) **Philosophy:** What are the philosophic underpinnings of human rights? What critical interventions and challenges have thinkers made in the development of ideas of human rights?
- ii) **Approaches:** How do different approaches understand human rights?
- iii) **Practice:** What do human rights look like in practice? What do human rights look like at the international, domestic and grassroots level? What are the possibilities and limitations of human rights in practice?

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- i) **Critically Engage:** Deepen and complicate their understanding of human rights through a serious engagement with different perspectives. Students should be able to draw out assumptions underpinning different perspectives on human rights.
- ii) **Analyse and Evaluate:** Analyse and evaluate the possibilities and limitations of different theories, approaches, and implementations of human rights.
- iii) **Develop Arguments:** Develop the ability to communicate informed, well supported arguments through written assignments.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S)

Goodhart, Michael (2022). *Human Rights: Theory and Practice*, Fourth Edition. New York: Oxford University Press.

*Textbook can be purchased at the University of Calgary bookstore (print and digital). Please note: We are using the **fourth** edition of the text, which has been substantially revised.*

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Response Papers x 3	15%	Ongoing
Take Home Mid Term	20%	Feb 18 th at 1:00pm
Research Paper	35%	Mar 20 th at 11:59pm
Take Home Final Exam	30%	Apr 16 at 11:59pm
Total	100%	

COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
<p>Part 1: The Philosophy of Human Rights</p> <p>What are the philosophic underpinnings of human rights? What critical interventions and challenges have thinkers made in the development of ideas of human rights?</p>		
<p>Week 1 (Jan 9, 11, 13)</p>	<p>Human Rights in the History of Political Thought</p>	<p>Jan 9th: Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course overview <p>Jan 11th: Emergence of rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 1: pg. 7-10 • Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen: https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/rightsof.asp OR • United States Declaration of Independence: https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript <p>Optional:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olympe de Gouges, “Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen”: https://books.openedition.org/obp/2972?lang=en <p>Jan 13th: Historical debates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 1: pg. 10-11 • Marx, “On the Jewish Question” (only pages 42-47): Marx, Karl, and Richard A. Davis. “On the Jewish Question.” Chapter. In Marx: Early Political Writings, edited by Joseph J. O’Malley, 28–56. Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994. • Bentham, Anarchical Fallacies (excerpt): https://h2o.law.harvard.edu/text_blocks/28863
<p>Week 2 (Jan 16, 18, 20)</p>	<p>Human Rights in Contemporary Political Thought</p>	<p>Jan 16th: Contemporary human rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 1: pg. 12-17 • Universal Declaration of Human Rights (preamble, skim articles): https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2021/03/udhr.pdf <p>Jan 20th: Types of rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 1: pg. 18-25

		<p>Jan 18th: Contemporary debates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benhabib, Seyla. "Another Universalism: On the Unity and Diversity of Human Rights." <i>Proceedings and addresses of the American Philosophical Association</i> 81, no. 2 (2007): 7–32. • Sen, Amartya. "Human Rights and Capabilities." <i>Journal of Human Development</i> 6, no. 2 (2005): 151–166.
<p>Part 2: Theories and Approaches to Human Rights How do different theories and approaches understand human rights?</p>		
<p>Week 3 (Jan 23, 25, 27)</p>	<p>International Law</p>	<p>Jan 23rd: Development of international law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 2: 27-31 <p>Jan 25th: Sources of international law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 2: 31-38 <p>Jan 27th: Enforcement of international law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 2: 39-47
<p>Week 4 (Jan 30, Feb 1, 3)</p>	<p>Social Constructivism</p>	<p>Jan 30th: Social constructivism and human rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 6: pg. 113-115, 117-122 <p>Feb 1st: Social constructivism and human rights II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 6: 127-131 <p>Feb 3rd: Social constructivism and human rights III</p>
<p>Week 5 (Feb 6, 8, 10)</p>	<p>Imperialism</p>	<p>Feb 6th: Imperialism and human rights I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 5: pg. 92-101 • (only pages 201-219). Mutua, Makau. "Savages, Victims, and Saviors: The Metaphor of Human Rights." <i>Harvard international law journal</i> 42, no. 1 (2001): 201–245. <p>Feb 8th: Imperialism and human rights II</p> <p>Feb 10th: Paradoxes and Possibilities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 5: pg. 102-111
<p>Week 6 (Feb 13, 15, 17)</p>	<p>Performativity</p>	<p>Feb 13th: Performativity and human rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7: pg. 135-143 <p>Feb 15th: Performativity and human rights II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7: pg. 144-152 <p>Feb 17th: NO CLASS – Take Home Midterm Exam</p>
<p>TAKE HOME MID TERM Exam will open Feb 17th at 1:00pm Due: Feb 18th at 1:00pm</p>		
<p>Week 7</p>		<p>No Class, Term Break</p>

Part 3: Human Rights Issues

What do human rights look like in practice? What are the possibilities and limitations of human rights in practice?

<p>Week 8 (Feb 27, Mar 1, 3)</p>	<p>Implementing Human Rights</p>	<p>Feb 27th: Implementing human rights from above and below I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 11: pg. 221-230 <p>Mar 1st: Implementing human rights from above and below II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 11: pg. 231- 240 • Chapter 16: pg. 344-349 <p>Mar 3rd: Implementing human rights from above and below III</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Share Campaign Summary: https://foodshare.net/custom/uploads/2022/03/Right-to-Food-One-Pager.pdf • Toronto Food Charter (skim): https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2018/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-118057.pdf
<p>Week 9 (Mar 6, 8, 10)</p>	<p>Genocide</p>	<p>Mar 6th: Theories of genocide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 8: pg. 154-165 <p>Mar 8th: Rwandan genocide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 8: pg. 165-175 <p>Optional:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fujii, Lee Ann. "The Power of Local Ties: Popular Participation in the Rwandan Genocide." <i>Security studies</i> 17, no. 3 (2008): 568–597. <p>Mar 10st: Indigenous Genocide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Report: https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Supplementary-Report_Genocide.pdf
<p>Week 10 (Mar 13, 15, 17)</p>	<p>Indigenous Rights</p>	<p>Mar 13th: Indigenous rights: challenging settler colonialism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 15: 327-337 <p>Mar 15th: UNDRIP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDRIP (skim): https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf <p>Mar 17th: Indigenous sovereignty and refusals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (only chapter 1) Simpson, Audra. "Indigenous Interruptions: Mohawk Nationhood, Citizenship, and the State" in <i>Mohawk Interruptus: Political Life Across the Borders of Settler States</i>. Durham: Duke University Press, 2014.
<p align="center">RESEARCH PAPER Due: Mar 20th by 11:59pm</p>		
<p>Week 11 (Mar</p>	<p>Women's Rights</p>	<p>Mar 20th: Women's rights: challenging patriarchy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4: pg. 71-76

20, 22, 24)		<p>Mar 22nd: CEDAW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4: pg. 77-79 • CEDAW (skim): https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-elimination-all-forms-discrimination-against-women <p>Mar 24th: Which women?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4: pg. 79-89 • Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses." <i>Boundary</i> 212/13, no. 3 (1984): 333–358. • Oyewumi, Oyeronke. "Preface" in <i>Invention of Women: Making an African Sense of Western Gender Discourses</i>. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1997.
Week 12 (Mar 27, 29, 31)	Sex, Sexuality and Human Rights	<p>Mar 27th: LGBTIQ+ rights: challenging heteronormativity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 18: pg. 380-385 <p>Mar 29th: LGBTIQ+ organizing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 18: pg. 386-393 • UN Born Free and Equal (skim): https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/Born_Free_and_Equal_WEB.pdf <p>Mar 31st: Critiques</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 19: pg. 394-398 • Delatolla, Andrew. "Sexuality as a Standard of Civilization: Historicizing (Homo)Colonial Intersections of Race, Gender, and Class." <i>International studies quarterly</i> 64, no. 1 (2020): 148–158.
Week 13 (Apr 3, 5)	Humanitarian Intervention	<p>April 3rd: Types of intervention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 9: pg. 178-187 <p>April 5th: Challenges of intervention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 9: pg. 188-198
Week 14 (Apr 12)	Review	<p>April 10: NO CLASS</p> <p>April 12: Review</p>
<p>TAKE HOME FINAL Exam will be posted to D2L on April 12th. Due: April 16th 11:59pm</p>		

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

SHORT REFLECTIONS

Students will complete three 250-word reflections. The reflections will be worth 5% each for a total of 15%. Reflections are due via D2L dropbox **the day before the first class of the week by 4pm**. There is one exception: if you choose to write on Week 1, the reflection will be due the day before the third class of the week by 4pm.

Rather than summarize the week's readings, your reflections should explore a question, theme, criticism, or insight that occurred to you during your reading for the week. You may also relate your reading to personal experiences or current events. You may consider all the week's readings in your reflection or focus on a particular topic/reading. The reflections are meant to help you unpack your initial impressions and emerging thoughts. Formal citations are not required, though you should include page numbers when referencing the textbook and articles.

You must submit **at least one reflection from group A and one reflection from group B**. Your **third reflection can be from either group**. Once a deadline has passed, you will no longer be able to submit a reflection for that week.

GROUP A (philosophy, theories, and approaches)	
Topic	Deadline
Week 1: Human Rights in the History of Political Thought	Jan 12 th by 4pm
Week 2: Human Rights in Contemporary Political Thought	Jan 15 th by 4pm
Week 3: International Law	Jan 22 nd by 4pm
Week 4: Social Constructionism	Jan 29 th by 4pm
Week 5: Imperialism	Feb 5 th by 4pm
Week 6: Performativity	Feb 12 th by 4pm

GROUP B (human rights issues)	
Topic	Deadline
Week 8: Implementing Human Rights	Feb 26 th by 4pm
Week 9: Genocide	Mar 5 th by 4pm
Week 10: Indigenous Rights	Mar 12 th by 4pm
Week 11: Women's Rights	Mar 19 th by 4pm
Week 12: Sex, Sexuality and Human Rights	Mar 26 th by 4pm
Week 13: Humanitarianism Intervention	Apr 2 nd by 4pm

TAKE HOME MID-TERM EXAMINATION

There will be a take home mid-term exam to be completed **individually**. The exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. The exam is designed to be completed in 50 minutes, however, it is not timed. You will have 24 hours to complete the exam. The exam will be available from **Feb 17th at 1:00pm until Feb 18th at 1:00pm**. You may complete the exam anytime within this period. There will be no lecture on Feb 17th, so that you can complete the mid-term during our regularly scheduled class time if you choose. The exam is open book – it will draw on all course materials (lectures, textbook readings, assigned readings) and students may use these materials for the exam.

RESEARCH PAPER

Students will complete a 2500-3000-word research paper on a topic of their choice related to the politics of human rights. Papers can focus on a theoretical question (e.g. concepts, ideas, theories, etc), an empirical question (e.g. single case study, comparative case studies, etc), or some combination of both (e.g., law or policy in theory and practice, a particular human right in theory and practice). I am happy to chat with you about your paper topics and I strongly encourage students to run their research question by me prior to writing their papers. Papers must be submitted via D2L dropbox by **Mar 20th at 11:59pm**.

TAKE HOME FINAL EXAMINATION

There will be a take home final exam to be completed **individually**. The exam will consist of short and long answer/essay questions. It is open book – it will draw on all course materials (lectures, textbook readings, assigned readings) and students may use these materials for the exam. The exam will be posted to D2L on **April 12th**. Exams will be submitted to a D2L Dropbox by **April 16th at 11:59pm**.

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, may be considered 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>.

LATE PENALTY

A late penalty of -2% per day including weekends will be applied to the research paper unless you have spoken to me about an extension or circumstances that require accommodations.

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)

Please be in contact with me as soon as possible if you miss any of the required course components.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

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.

Deferred Term Work Form: Deferral of term work past the end of a term requires a form to be filled out by the student and submitted, along with any supporting documentation, to the instructor. The form is available at: https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/14/P22_deferral-of-term-work_lapseGrade.pdf

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the instructor will email the form to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (ascarts@ucalgary.ca) for approval by the Associate Dean.

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>.

Reappraisal of Grades:

For Reappraisal of Graded Term Work, see Calendar I.2

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

For Reappraisal of Final Grade, see Calendar I.3

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Academic Misconduct:

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior that compromises proper assessment of students' academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, Procedure and Academic Integrity, please visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.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.

Recording of Lectures:

Recording of lectures is prohibited, except for audio recordings authorized as an accommodation by SAS or an audio recording for individual private study and only with the written permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, their transcription, copying, or distribution, constitutes academic misconduct. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>.

Academic 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. 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

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

Research Ethics

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subject research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

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 (FOIP) Act:

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. Assignments can only be returned to the student and will be accessible only to authorized faculty and staff. For more information, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>

Copyright Legislation:

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

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.

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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points> and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Important Dates:

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call them at 403-220-3580, or email them at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>, which has detailed information on common academic concerns, including program planning and advice.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them in the MacKimmie Tower.

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/>.