

LWSO 401 – Lecture S01
Human Rights and the Global South
Winter 2013
TuTh 12:30 – 13:45 SH 288
Class dates: Jan. 8. 10-Apr. 16

Instructor: Dr. Derrick M. Nault

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Office location: SS 1205

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 14:00 – 15:00

Course Description

Human rights are a set of universal principles concerning the ethical and legal treatment of individuals by virtue of their being human. As to where they originate, conventional wisdom holds they were discovered in eighteenth century Western Europe and disseminated to other world regions in the wake of the French and American Revolutions or through the efforts of Western intellectuals, politicians and activists following the establishment of the United Nations in 1945. This course challenges such assumptions by showing that through their ethical frameworks and historic struggles for social justice peoples of the Global South have played an equally pivotal role in the creation of human rights thought and our contemporary international human rights regime. It will be argued that understanding human rights' global origins as such is not only important for reasons of historical accuracy, but also for exposing and challenging human rights violations prompted by both authoritarian governments citing cultural relativism and Western neocolonial hegemony. Ample course time will also be devoted to discussing some key international human rights cases in recent years and issues of pressing concern for peoples in developing nations.

Objectives of the Course

By the end of the course students will understand:

- How human rights are not a Western innovation but the product of a shared global heritage
- How peoples of the Global South have contributed to the evolution of human rights in the distant and recent past through their ethical frameworks and struggles for social justice
- How human rights have been defined and encoded in international legal frameworks such as those of the United Nations
- What human rights problems are common in the Global South today and what might be done to alleviate them

Textbook and Readings:

No textbook is required. Students will be provided with details regarding course readings prior to the start of the course.

Assignments and Evaluation

Attendance and Participation 10%

Exams (2 x 15% = 30%) (Friday, January 31, 2013 and February 28, 2013) (in-class exams)
Research paper (40%) (Due date: Friday, March 7, 2013)
Online discussions (20%)(ongoing)

Attendance and Participation: Students should attend regularly and participate in class and group discussions to the best of their ability. Although lectures will form the core of the course, time will be made for students to reflect and offer their views on course themes. For the participation component of this grade, students will be expected to submit written questions to the instructor at different points in the course based on readings to encourage discussion.

Research paper: The length of the paper will be 2,500 to 3,000 words. The paper should demonstrate the student's ability to think critically, support arguments with evidence, and synthesize sources. High quality papers are those that go beyond mere description by posing thought provoking questions and providing insight. They are also free of grammatical errors, logically structured, cohesive, and concise in style.

Note: Please hand in your research paper directly to the instructor in class. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS102; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Exams: Will test students' ability to work with the major ideas and concepts covered in the course. It will include questions on the course readings, lectures, and videos and will consist of essay style questions. Students will be given a list of study questions in advance of which some will be randomly selected for the exams. More details on the number of study questions, number of questions to be selected for the exam, and the number of questions to be answered on the exam will be provided at the beginning of the term.

Online discussions: In the second half of the course students will be required to post comments on lectures and videos related to human rights in the Global South. Details on the nature of the comments expected and grading criteria will be provided early in the course.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Writing Skills Statement

Assessment will be based partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details:
www.efwr.ucalgary.ca

Grading System

The following grading system will be used in the course:

Grading Scale

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

To be posted on Blackboard before start of classes.

Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see the Faculty of Arts Ethics site:
<http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/for-researchers/ethics>

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or Writing Support Services (efwr.ucalgary.ca) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Laptops will be allowed in class, but only for the taking of notes or searching of information relevant to lectures. Students who use laptops for other purposes will have their laptop use privileges revoked.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Academic Accommodation Policy

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course. For further information, please see

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/46>

Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points

Please note the evacuation points for this particular classroom. All classrooms on campus exit to specific places in case of emergency. The emergency assembly points differ depending upon where your classroom is located. For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

"SAFEWALK" Program

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 403-220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

Student Representation

There are now four Arts reps because of the amalgamation, with the email addresses being arts1@su.ucalgary.ca , arts2@su.ucalgary.ca , arts3@su.ucalgary.ca , and arts4@su.ucalgary.ca . Please contact if you have questions related to Students Union matters, events, or concerns.

For your student ombudsman, please see: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us 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.

- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.