



PSC 4770: Human Rights
Spring 2016
Tuesday and Thursday, 14:00 - 15:15
Snyder Memorial 3066

“Where after all do universal human rights begin? In small places, closest to home - so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any map of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person: The neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.” — Eleanor Roosevelt

Professor:

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Office Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 - 13:15 or by appointment.

Course Description:

An in-depth examination of the philosophical, empirical, and practical foundations of human rights. This course is worth three (3) credit hours.

Course Overview:

What are human rights? Why do states repress citizens? How do human rights norms diffuse? How do human rights defenders protect rights? This class will examine both the theoretical and empirical contributions to the study of human rights from the social sciences and law, as well as, human rights best (and worst) practices. Specifically, the class will examine the full extent of UN human rights mechanisms - both on the norm creation side and the protection side of things.

Learning Objectives:

- Students will gain a practical and theoretical understanding of the study of human rights.
- Students will be able to synthesize readings and apply concepts to multiple contexts, including day to day examples.
- Students will increase competence and confidence in both oral and written communication through practice.

Prerequisites:

PSC 1710 or PSC 2700 or faculty permission.

Textbooks:

Both books are required. Any additional readings are available on Blackboard. Please also follow the news on a daily basis.

1. Donnelly, 2013. *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice* (3rd edition). Cornell University Press.
2. Goodhart, 2013. *Human Rights: Politics and Practice* (2nd edition). Oxford University Press.
3. Read the news daily

University Policies

The University is an equal opportunity educational institution. Please read *The University's Policy Statement on Nondiscrimination on the Basis of the Americans with Disability Act Compliance*.

Academic Accommodations The University of Toledo is committed to providing equal access to education for all students. If you have a documented disability or you believe you have a disability and would like information regarding academic accommodations/adjustments in this course please contact the *Student Disability Services Office*.

Grade Policy:

Unexcused, late assignments will be assessed a penalty of 1/3 a letter grade per 24 hours late.

Grading Scale:

Numerical Grade	Letter Grade	Performance
93 - 100	A	Achievement of Exceptional or Outstanding quality.
90 - 92	A-	Achievement of slightly less than outstanding quality.
87 - 89	B+	Achievement of slightly more than high quality.
83 - 86	B	Achievement of high quality.
80 - 82	B-	Achievement of slightly less than high quality.
77 - 79	C+	Work of slightly more than acceptable quality.
73 - 76	C	Work of acceptable quality.
70 - 72	C-	Work of slightly less than acceptable quality.
67 - 69	D+	Work slightly below the quality expected.
63 - 66	D	Below the quality expected.
60 - 62	D-	Barely above failing.
59 or less	F	Failure

Grading:

Response Papers	60%
- Students are required to write eight two-page double-spaced response papers for the readings. Four of the response papers must occur before Spring Break and four response papers must occur after Spring Break. Students may drop their lowest response paper grade.	
Final Exam	20%
- This take-home exam will consist of two essays. Each essay shall be three double-spaced pages.	
- Students are expected to attend class. Each student will receive two unexcused absences. After two unexcused absences, student's will be penalized with 1/3 letter grade deduction for attendance.	
Participation	10%
- Students are expected to participate in each class. Participation means reading the material and discussing the material. In addition, students are required to find one news article for two different classes.	

Academic Honesty:

“The free exchange of ideas depends on the participants’ trust that others’ work is their own and that it was done and is being reported honestly. Intellectual progress in all the disciplines demands the truthfulness of all participants. Plagiarism and cheating are attacks on the very foundation of academic life, and cannot be tolerated within universities.”

If you cheat, you will receive a zero on the assignment.

Extra Help and Office Hours:

Please feel free to come by my office hours if you need help understanding assignments or readings. It is best to come see me as soon as possible if you need any additional help.

Important Dates:

Add Deadline	16 January 2016
Drop Deadline	19 January 2016
Final Exam	due by 23:59, 6 May 2016

Course Schedule:

12 January : Introductions

1. Course overview, general expectations, etc.

14 January : Conceptions of Human Rights

1. Donnelly, chapter 1.
2. “The Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam.” - *The Organization for Islamic Cooperation*.

19 January : A [brief] History of Human Rights

1. Goodhart, chapter 1.
2. Donnelly, chapter 5.

21 January : Measuring Human Rights

1. Goodhart, chapter 21.

26 January : Human Rights in International Relations and International Law

1. Goodhart, chapters 3-4.

28 January : Human Rights in the [other] Social Sciences

1. Goodhart, chapters 5-6.

2 February : Why States Repress

1. Goodhart, chapter 8.
2. Courtenay Ryals Conrad and Will H Moore, What Stops Torture?, *American Journal of Political Science*, 54 (2)(2010), pp. 459-476.

4 February : State-Sponsored Mass Violence

1. Goodhart, chapters 16 and 18.

9 February : UN Declaration Model of Human Rights

1. Donnelly, chapter 2.
2. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*
3. *United Nations' human rights website*

11 February : The [Relative] Universality of Rights

1. Donnelly, chapters 6-7.
2. Goodhart, chapter 7.

16 February : Human Rights Regimes

1. Donnelly, chapter 11.
2. *Council on Foreign Relations - Global Human Rights Regime*

18 February : Global Civil Society

1. Goodhart, Chapter 9.
2. Sam Bell, K. Chad Clay, and Amanda Murdie, Neighborhood Watch: Spatial Effects on Human Rights INGOs, *The Journal of Politics*, 74(2)(2012), pp. 354-368.

23 February : Norm Creation and Contestation

1. Martha Finnemore and Kathryn Sikkink, International Norm Dynamics and Political Change, *International Organization*, 52(4)(1998), pp. 887-917.
2. Jonathan Symons and Dennis Altman, "International Norm Polarization: Sexuality as a Subject of Human Rights Protection," *International Theory* 7(1)(2015), pp. 61-95.

25 February : Human Rights and Foreign Policy

1. Donnelly, Chapter 12.
2. Colin Barry, K. Chad Clay, and Michael Flynn, Avoiding the Spotlight: Human Rights Shaming and Foreign Direct Investment, *International Studies Quarterly*, 57(3), pp. 532-544.

1 March : [Humanitarian] Intervention and Transitional Justice

1. Goodhart, chapter 17 and 19.
2. Moises Naim, *Why Libya, But Not Syria?*, Carnegie Endowment for International Justice, 18 May 2011.

3 March : Guest Lecture - Joel Pruce

1. No Readings. An evening class. Time TBD.

8 March : Spring Break

10 March : Spring Break

15 March : Development and Inequality

1. Goodhart, chapter 10.
2. Donnelly, chapter 13.
3. *Open Democracy Debate on Inequality* - browse.
4. William Easterly, *How the Millennium Development Goals are Unfair to Africa*, *World Development*, 37(1)(2009), pp. 26-35.

17 March : Economic Globalization

1. Goodhart, chapter 11.
2. Donnelly, chapter 14.

22 March : Criminal Enterprises

1. Louise Shelley, *Human Trafficking: A Global Perspective*, (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010), chapters 3 and 4.
2. Doris Provine, *Race and Inequality in the War on Drugs*, *Annual Review of Law and Social Science*, 7(2011), pp. 41-60.

24 March : Children's Rights

1. Goodhart, chapter 12 and 15.

29 March : Women's Rights

1. Goodhart, chapter 2.
2. Susan Bartels, et al., *Militarized Sexual Violence in South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo*, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 28(2)(2013), pp. 340-358.
3. Neilan Chaturvedi and Orlando Montoya, *Democracy, Oil, or Religion? Expanding Women's Rights in the Muslim World*, *Politics and Religion*, 6(3)(2013), pp. 596-617.

31 March : Sexual Rights

1. Donnelly, chapter 16.
2. Philip Ayoub, "With Arms Wide Shut: Threat Perception, Norm Reception, and Mobilized Resistance to LGBT Rights," *Journal of Human Rights*, 13(2014), pp. 337-362.
3. Susan Dicklitch, et al., "Building a barometer of gay rights (BGR): A case study of Uganda and the persecution of homosexuals" *Human Rights Quarterly*, 34(2)(2012), pp. 448-471

5 April : Religion

1. Donnelly, chapter 8.
2. Clifford Bob. "Globalizing the Culture Wars: The United Nations Battle over Sexual Rights." (2010). Working Paper.
3. Hera Hashmi, "Too Much to Bare? A Comparative Analysis of The Headscarf in France, Turkey and the United States," 10 U.M.D. L.J. Race, Religion, Gender &Class 409(2010).

7 April : Migration and Refugees

1. Goodhart, chapter 13.
2. Liz Fekete, The Deportation Machine: Europe, Asylum, and Human Rights, Race & Class, 47(1)(2005), pp. 64-78.

12 April : Global Health

1. Nitsan Choreva, Changing Global Norms Through Reactive Diffusion: The Case of Intellectual Property Protection of AIDS Drugs American Sociological Review, 77(5)(2012), pp. 831-853.
2. Thomas Pogge, Human Rights and Global Health: A Research Program, Metaphilosophy, 36(1-2)(2005), pp. 182-209.
3. Michael Marmot, Social Determinants of Health Inequalities, The Lancet, 365(9464)(2005), pp. 19-25.

14 April : The Environment

1. Goodhart, chapter 22.
2. Cass Sunstein and Eric Posner, Climate Change Justice, The Georgetown Law Journal, 96(2008), pp. 1565-1612.

19 April : Business and Sports

1. Human Rights Watch, Building a Better World Cup, June 12, 2012, pp. 3-14.
2. John Ruggie, Protect, Respect, and Remedy: A Framework for Business and Human Rights, Innovations, (2008), pp. 189-212.

21 April : The United States (Inequality and Discrimination) and Europe (Discrimination and Refugees)

1. *Human Rights Watch 2015 World Report - United States*
2. *Human Rights Watch 2015 World Report - Europe*

26 April : The Global South

1. Thomas Pogge, "Are we violating the human rights of the world's poor?" (available on Blackboard).
2. "Ten ways to make trade fairer for the global south." - *The Guardian*.
3. Carmen Gonzalez, "Environmental Justice, Human Rights, and the Global South," 13 Santa Clara Journal of International Law 151 (2015).

28 April : Technology and the Future of Human Rights

1. Goodhart, chapter 20.
2. James Nickel, What Future for Human Rights? Ethics & International Affairs, 28(2)(2014), pp. 213-223.
3. Iain Levine, Will Technology Transform the Human Rights Movement?, Human Rights Watch, 26 March 2014.