

Political Science 3388E

International Human Rights

Fall Term 2014

(Winter Term 2015 Course Outline will be provided later.)

Fall Term 2014

Thursdays 10:30-1:30

UCC 37

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:30-12:00

Instructor: Dr. Joanna R. Quinn

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Course Description:

The first half of the course will provide an overview of the topic of human rights, from its origins to its 21st century reality, to its various conceptions, theoretical notions, and instruments. The second half of the course looks at issues of concern, abuses and potential solutions.

Texts:

Goodhart, Michael. Ed. *Human Rights: Politics and Practice*. Second edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Donnelly, Jack. *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice*. Third edition. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2013.

Orend, Brian. *Human Rights: Concept and Context*. Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2002.

Important Notice re: Prerequisites/Antirequisites:

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed. If you find that you do not have the course requisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

Office of the Dean, Faculty of Social Science

Course Requirements:

Fall Term:

Participation	7.5%
Essays	20%
Mid-Term Test	20%

Winter Term:

Participation	7.5%
Essay	20%
Final Exam	25%

Academic Dishonesty:

Many different types of actions may be considered academically dishonest. These might include, although not exhaustively, the following: cheating, submission of work not authored by you, double submission, fabrication, plagiarism. You are advised to familiarize yourself with the guidelines set out in the university's policy on Academic Rights and Responsibilities. These may be found at the following url:

<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/pdfs/AcademicCalendar2014v7.pdf>

Students with Disabilities:

Any student with a disability is advised to contact the Coordinator for Services for Students with Disabilities in order that arrangements can be made through them to accommodate that student. Services for Students with Disabilities is located in The Student Development Centre in UC 210; they can be reached by telephone at (519)661-2147, by email at ssd@sd.uwo.ca, or on the web at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/>

The university's policy on the accommodation of students with disabilities can be found at: http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/index.html?academic_acc

Other Resources:

There are many resources at UWO designed to assist you in your learning. You are strongly advised to utilize these services. The Student Development Centre offers many services, including Effective Writing Programs and Learning Skills Services. The Student Development Centre is located in UC 210; they can be reached by telephone at (519)661-3031, or on the web at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>.

You should also become familiar with the services offered by the University Library System. The D.B. Weldon Library may be contacted by telephone at (519)661-3162 or by email at dbwref@lib.uwo.ca, or on the web at <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/weldon/#>.

Writing Style:

You are required to use Chicago Style formatting for all assignments, and marks will be deducted for improper formatting. Please consult a writer's handbook when composing your essays in order to see how to format things like bibliography and footnotes. One such excellent handbook is Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007). A useful link may be found at the following url: <http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocChicago.html>.

Course Outline by Topic (Fall Term):

September 04: **Introduction to Course**

September 11: **Introduction**

- Goodhart “Introduction”
- Orend “Introduction”

September 18: **Concept and History: I**

- Goodhart chapter 1
- Donnelly chapter 1 and Donnelly chapter 5

September 25: **United Nations: History and Structure**

- Donnelly chapter 2
- Karen Mingst and Margaret Karns, *The United Nations in the Post-Cold War Era*, 2nd ed. (Boulder: Westview, 2002), 16-45, (available from Web CT/OWL)
- 25+ *HR Docs*: “Universal Declaration of Human Rights”
- 25+ *HR Docs*: “International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights”
- 25+ *HR Docs*: “International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights”

October 02: **Human Rights and International Law**

- Goodhart chapter 4
- Donnelly chapter 11
- Matt Horne, “Canada’s Kyoto math doesn’t add up,” Pembina Institute (Dec. 13, 2011); available from <http://www.pembina.org/blog/599>
- video: “Canada pulls out of Kyoto,” CBC News (Dec. 12, 2011); available from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-pulls-out-of-kyoto-protocol-1.999072> (video link [9:35] located under main photo at top of article)
- video: “MPs on Kyoto Pullout,” CBC News (Dec. 12, 2011); available from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-pulls-out-of-kyoto-protocol-1.999072> (video link [10:45] located under previous video link)
- CASE: Canada and the Kyoto Protocol*

October 09: **Universality**

- Orend chapter 2
- Donnelly chapter 6
- “Wars against children,” and select parts of “Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children: Impact of armed conflict on children,” UNICEF (1996) available from <http://www.unicef.org/graca/>
- CASE: Children and War*

October 16: **Cultural Relativism**
- Donnelly chapter 7
- Sandra Danial, "Cultural Relativism vs. Universalism: Female Genital Mutilation, Pragmatic Remedies," *Prandium* 2.1 (Spring 2013): 1-10, available from
<http://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/prandium/article/viewFile/19692/16296>
CASE: *female circumcision*

ESSAY #1 DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS

October 23: **Rights vs. Duties**
- Orend chapter 5
CASE: *the Ogoni people of Nigeria* (readings package available from WEB CT/OWL)

October 30: ** Fall Study Break – No Class **

November 06: **Non-Western Conceptions: Africa and Asia**
- Donnelly chapter 9 and Donnelly chapter 10
- 25+ *HR Docs*: "The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights"
CASE: *caste system* (readings package available from WEB CT/OWL)

November 13: **Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**
- Donnelly chapter 14
CASE: *Attawapiskat Housing Crisis* (readings package available from WEB CT/OWL)

November 20: **Human Rights and Foreign Policy**
- Donnelly chapter 12
CASE: *China* (readings package available from WEB CT/OWL)
ESSAY #2 DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS

November 27: **(Mis)Use of Human Rights**
- Goodhart chapter 7
- Ken Roth, "World Report Essay: War in Iraq: Not a Humanitarian Intervention," Human Rights Watch (Jan. 26, 2004); available from
http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/related_material/war-in-iraq.pdf
CASE: *Military Invasion in Iraq (2003)*

WINTER TERM READINGS AND COURSE OUTLINE TBA.

Political Science 3388E
International Human Rights

Essay #1:

The topic of Essay #1 may be selected from any of the material we have covered in class up to and including October 16, 2014.

You must provide a one-paragraph outline of your intended topic along with three annotated bibliographic citations to the me no later than **Thursday, October 02, 2014**, preferably after a verbal consultation with me. Your proposal **MUST** be approved by me, or you will not be eligible to hand in an essay to me. When handed in to me, this proposal **MUST** contain both the your name and student number.

Essay #1 is **due at the beginning of class on Thursday, October 16, 2014.**
NO EXTENSIONS WILL BE GRANTED.

Essay #2:

The topic of Essay #2 may be selected from any of the material we have covered in class up to and including November 20, 2014.

You must provide a one-paragraph outline of your intended topic along with three annotated bibliographic citations to the me no later than **Thursday, November 06, 2014**, preferably after a verbal consultation with me. Your proposal **MUST** be approved by me, or you will not be eligible to hand in an essay to me. When handed in to me, this proposal **MUST** contain both the your name and student number.

Essay #1 is **due at the beginning of class on Thursday, November 20, 2014.**
NO EXTENSIONS WILL BE GRANTED.

Each essay must be 8-10 pages in length. It must include a bibliography of no less than seven sources, of which no less than two must be journal articles; internet sources may not be used for these essays.

The essay and accompanying bibliography must be properly formatted, using “Chicago Style.” Marks will be deducted for improper formatting. See p. 2 of this handout for a Chicago Style reference manual link.

I have provided a Grading Grid on p. 7, which shows other expectations I have for your essay.

PARTICIPATION

Participation may take many forms. Throughout this year, you will be asked to participate in a number of different ways, including participation in discussions, simulations, and debates. Critical to all of this, of course, is attendance—you can't participate if you're not here!!

In addition, at the beginning of each class, you will submit a written assignment that demonstrates that you have done and are familiar with the readings assigned for that week. This assignment will consist of three or more comments on the readings themselves. Each comment must be at least one paragraph (i.e. minimum three sentences) in length. These will be graded out of a possible score of 3. **Please note that you may not submit this assignment each week unless you are physically present throughout the class.**

The balance of your participation grade will be determined according to the following criteria:

Participation Grading Guide

Grade	Attendance	Discussion	Reading
10	Always	<u>Excellent</u> : leads debate; offers analysis and comments; always has ideas on theme of reading; takes care not to dominate; asks questions	Clearly has done and prepared questions on virtually all readings; intelligently uses this understanding and these questions in discussion
8	Almost always	<u>Very Good</u> : thoughtful comments and questions for the most part; willing, able and frequent contributor	Has done most readings; provides competent analysis of reading when prompted by others
6	Frequent	<u>Good</u> : has basic grasp of key concepts and occasional ideas on the main theme of the reading; arguments are sporadic and at times incomplete or poorly supported; unwilling to ask questions	Displays familiarity with most readings, but tends not to analyze them or to relate them to the course material
4	Occasional	<u>Somewhat Poor</u> : remarks in class marred by misunderstandings of key concepts; seldom contributes effectively to discussion of the main theme; often digresses in unhelpful ways; sporadic	Actual knowledge of material is outweighed by improvised comments and remarks
0-2	Rare	<u>Poor</u> : rarely speaks; parrots text or comments of others	Little or no apparent familiarity with assigned material

ESSAYS
Grading Grid

Argument	
Organization of the Essay	
Quality of evidence	
Communication Skills	
Use of quotations, footnotes or endnotes	
Other Comments	
Grade	

**APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

Essay course requirements

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

Security and Confidentiality of Student Work (refer to current *Western Academic Calendar* (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>))

"**Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams** - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

Duplication of work

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

Grade adjustments

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

Academic Offences

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>."

Submission of Course Requirements

ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS MUST BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.

THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

Students registered in Social Science should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/> <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.

Plagiarism

"Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking: "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)."

Multiple-choice tests/exams: "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

PLAGIARISM*

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you,

and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

*Reprinted by permission of the Department of History

Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991

Accessibility at Western: Please contact poliscie@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

Mental Health at Western: If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for more information on these resources and on mental health.