

Political Science 258-01/Fall 2004/Prof. Henry Krisch
Comparative Perspectives on Human Rights

Books to be purchased (all pb)

1. Norman M. Naimark, *Fires of Hatred. Ethnic Cleansing in Twentieth Century Europe*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2002
2. Samantha Power, *'A Problem from Hell'. America and the Age of Genocide*. New York: Perennial, 2003
3. Michael Ignatieff, *Human Rights as Politics and Idolatry*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001
4. Martha Minow, *Between Vengeance and Forgiveness*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1998
5. Nicholas Owen, ed., *Human Rights, Human Wrongs*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003
6. Jack Donnelly, *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice*, 2nd ed. Ithaca, NY: Cornell university Press, 2003

Course format

There will be weekly themes for the class sessions, with lecture summaries and additional course materials posted on WebCT.

There will be an essay-question final exam in room HRM101 on Friday December 17 from 6 to 8 pm. There will not be a midterm. Semester grades will be based on the **final exam, the writing project, and extra-credit reports on speakers.**

Paper options

Each student will prepare a writing project. There are two options: a 20-25 page term paper or participation in a small-group research presentation. Students in the latter will prepare briefing papers on aspects of a human rights trial of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. **These papers will be presented to a special session of the class held on December 6 in the Konover Auditorium, Dodd Center.**

Detailed instructions for both options will be posted on the course WebCT site, along with this syllabus.

POLS 258-01/Fall 2004

Class sessions, themes and readings

Classes will focus on 6 themes dealt with in a comparative perspective. They are: different views on what are human rights; human rights violations in the past century; politics of defending human rights on the state, regional and supra-national levels; human rights in times of crisis; frontiers of a human rights agenda.

Readings are from books purchased or on reserve, as well as documents placed on the course's WebCT site. For some classes, optional readings are indicated.

August 30: Introduction; what are human rights?

Steven Lukes, "Five Fables about Human Rights," pp 19-40 in Stephen Shute & Susan Hurley, ed, *On Human Rights*; Donnelly, ch 1; "Human Rights as Idolatry," pp. 53-98 in Ignatieff

[September 6: Labor Day— no class]

September 13: The UDHR and the Origins of the Contemporary Human Rights System

Samantha Power, "A Problem...", ch 1-4; Donnelly, ch 2 & 8.

Optional: Michael Freeman, *Human Rights. An Interdisciplinary Approach*, ch 2.

September 20: Human Rights—other perspectives

Donnelly, ch 5-7; James Monangue Kobila, "Comparative Practice on Human Rights: North and South," ch 3 (pp. 89-115) in Jean-Marc Coicaud, Michael W Doyle, Ann-Marie Gardner, ed, *The Globalization of Human Rights*.

Optional: Louis Henkin, "Human Rights: Ideology and Aspiration, Reality and Prospect," in Samantha Power/Graham Allison, *Realizing Human Rights*; Uwe-Jens Heuer & Gregor Schirmer, "Human Rights Imperialism," *Monthly Review*, vol 49, no 10 (March 1998), pp. 5-16.

September 27: Expansion of Human rights

Donnelly, ch 12 & 13; Susan George, "Globalizing Rights," in Mathew Gibney ed, *Globalizing Rights*, pp. 15-33 ; W. Wayte Gibbs, "Saving Dying Languages," *Scientific American*, vol 287, no 2 (August 2002), pp. 79-85; Ian Buruma, "The Road to Babel," *The New York Review of Books*, vol 49, no 9 (5/31/2001), pp. 23-5.

Optional: Donnelly, ch 4

POLS 258-01/Fall 2004

October 4: Human Rights Violated

Minow, ch 1 & 2; Naimark ch 1,3, & 4 and pp. 167-170; Samantha Power, "A Problem...": ch 6,8,9; HRHW, ch 6 & 7;

Optional: Naimark, rest; Daniel Chirot & Jennifer Edwards, "Making Sense of the Senseless: Understanding Genocide," *Contexts*, vol 2, issue 2 (2003), pp. 12-19; Philipp Ther, "A Century of Forced Migrations: The Origins and Consequences of 'Ethnic Cleansing'," in Philip Ther & Ana Siljak, *Redrawing Nations. Ethnic Cleansing in East-Central Europe, 1944-1948*, pp 43-72.

October 11: Government responses to human rights violations

Donnelly, ch 9, 10; Samantha Power, "A Problem...": ch 5-12; HRHW, ch 3.

Optional: Jimmy Carter, "American Road to a Human Rights Policy" ch 3 in *Realizing* .

October 18: Political action in response to human rights violations

Minow, ch 3,4 & 5; A. James McAdams, "Communism on Trial: The East German Past and the German Future," and Jorge Correa Sutil, "No Victorious Army Has Ever Been Prosecuted...," in A. James McAdams, ed. *Transitional Justice and the Rule of Law in New Democracies*; Richard A. Wilson, "Reconciliation and Revenge in Post-Apartheid South Africa," *Current Anthropology*, vol. 41, no. 1 (Feb 2000), pp. 75-87.

October 25: National and Supra-national courts; International Jurisdiction

HRHW, ch 4; Daniel J. Krisch, "Vogt v Germany..." *Connecticut Journal of International Law*, vol. 14, no 1 (Summer 1999), pp. 237-65; "Princeton Principles on Universal Jurisdiction"— Introduction (on reserve)

Optional: Shirley Williams [Europe] Ch 5 in *Realizing*.

November 1: An International Criminal Court?

Samantha Power, "A Problem...", ch 13; ICC documents and interviews; statements on the ICC by Presidents Clinton and Bush (on WebCT)

November 8: Humanitarian intervention

HRHW, ch 1 & 3; Donnelly, ch 14; Abdullahi A. An-Na'im, "NATO on Kosovo is Bad for Human Rights," *Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights*, vol. 17, no 3 (1999), pp. 229-231.

POLS 258-01/Fall 2004

Optional: Bhikhu Parekh, "Rethinking Humanitarian Intervention," *International Political Science Review*, vol. 18, no 1 (Jan 1997), pp. 49-69;

November 15: Human Rights in Times of Crisis—I: US after Sept 11

Samantha Power, "A Problem...": Conclusion; Jane Mayer, "Lost in the Jihad," *The New Yorker* (March 10, 2003), pp. 50-59; Aryeh Neier, "Did the Era of Rights End on September 11?" Crimes of War Project web site: <http://www.crimesofwar.org/sept-mag/sept-neier-printer.html>; Ashcroft statement

November 29: Human Rights in Times of Crisis —II: Great Britain, Germany

Ian Cuthbertson, "Whittling Liberties. Britain's Not-So-Temporary Antiterrorism Laws," *World Policy Journal*, vol. 18, no. 4 (Winter 2001-2), pp. 27-33; "Terrorism in Europe," *Europe*, no. 410 (Oct 2001), pp. 36-47

December 6: Class Presentation in Konover Auditorium, Dodd Center on "A Trial for Saddam Hussein?"

Official statements and commentary on Saddam Hussein's fate after the transfer of jurisdiction on June 28, 2004 (on reserve and on WebCT.)