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

Books to be purchased (all pb)

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.
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?

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.

September 20: Human Rights—other perspectives

September 27: Expansion of Human rights
Optional: Donnelly, ch 4
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;

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

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

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

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

**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.)