

Human Rights & Global Affairs

Autumn 2014 — PSC 354.001 — M/W: 2.15-3.35pm — 010 Eggers Hall

Hans Peter Schmitz, Political Science

Human rights arguments are pervasive in many political and social struggles across the world. Going back to the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948, the idea of rights has emerged as a key central cause for decades of transnational non-governmental activism. The seminar introduces students to human rights as an important field in global affairs, highlights the role of states, international institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and looks at contemporary human rights issues.

The seminar alternates each week between different sets of activities: Monday sessions are usually dedicated to lecture/discussion-based activities, and focused on introducing key concepts and background information. Wednesday sessions will be used for case studies, group activities, occasional media presentations, and your research assignments. The first part of the course will focus on the introduction of key concepts and actors, including international human rights and humanitarian law, intergovernmental organizations, states, and NGOs. The second half of the course shifts attention to selected human rights issues, including violence against women, genocide, human trafficking, and minority rights.

Readings:

- Course reader, *Human Rights & Global Affairs, fall 2014* (available at SU bookstore)
- *Online assignments* linked from main course website.

The requirements for successful completion of this class are –

- (1) **class attendance and participation**, sign-up each session (10 per cent),
- (2) **two written responses to readings** (5 per cent),
- (3) **oral presentation**, country case study (peer-reviewed, 10 per cent)
- (3) **research paper**, two drafts (due September 29 and November 10; 10 per cent each),
- (4) closed book **mid-term exam** (in-class, Wednesday, October 22; 15 per cent),
- (5) **research paper**, final draft (Friday, December 5 at 4.30pm; 25 per cent),
- (6) closed book **final exam** (in-class, Monday, December 8, 12.45-2.45pm; 15 per cent).

Any violation of academic integrity standards, as defined by Syracuse University's Office of Academic Integrity (OAI) results in failing the class and reporting to the school/college academic integrity coordinator.

The use of electronic devices is prohibited in class.

COURSE PLAN

Part I

Human rights in global affairs

Week 1

Introduction

August 25

Course outline and logistics

August 27

What are human rights? (*assignment of country*)

Week 2

What are human rights?

September 1

Labor Day (no class session)

September 3

Theories of human rights

Week 3

Histories of human rights

September 8

Understanding the rise of human rights after WW II

September 10

Human rights today: triumph and crisis

Week 4

Universal periodic review: your research explained

September 15

Universal periodic review (UPR); overview of your research paper

September 17

UPR: how effective is such a process?

Week 5

Promotion: international law

September 22

The United Nations system and the Geneva conventions

September 24

The effects of international human rights/humanitarian law

Week 6

IHL and IHRL in practice

September 29

How to protect civilians in non-international armed conflict (*first draft due*)

October 1

The case of Colombia

Week 7

Persuasion: Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

October 6

Transnational advocacy networks (TANs)

October 8

Slacktivism?: Kony 2012; #BringBackOurGirls; conflict minerals

Week 8

Prevention/intervention: Stopping atrocities

October 13

What is genocide?

October 15

Humanitarian intervention: Somalia, Rwanda, Libya, Syria....

Week 9

Mid-term week

October 20

Preparation for mid-term (bring your questions!)

October 22

Mid-term (closed book)

Part II	Selected human rights issues
Week 10	Prosecution: Global justice?
October 27	International Criminal Court (ICC)
October 29	Twenty years of international criminal justice: lessons?
Week 11	Right to health
November 3	Global health issues
November 5	Effective interventions for health
Week 12	Human trafficking
November 10	Forced labor and trafficking (<i>second draft of research paper due</i>)
November 12	Sex trade
Week 13	Gender-based violence
November 17	Domestic violence
November 19	Female genital cutting (FGC)
Week 14	Thanksgiving week
November 24/26	No classes.
Week 15	Minorities/indigenous rights
December 1	Indigenous populations/Roma and travelers
December 3	Wrap-up/evaluation
December 5	Final research paper due, by 5pm (Monday)
December 8	Final exam, closed book, 12.45-2.45pm (Monday)

READINGS

Week 1	Introduction (August 25/27) Introduction to the UDHR (M) Martinez, HR and history; Bobelian, Review of 'The Slave Trade' (W)
Week 2	What are human rights? (September 1/3) Labor Day (no class session); please read upcoming assignments (M) Donnelly, Theories of HR; Stanford Encyclopedia: Human rights (W)
Week 3	Histories of human rights (September 8/10) Donnelly, HR in World Politics; UDHR (M) Rieff, Precarious triumph; Kinzer, Warmongers?; Hopgood, End of HR (W)
Week 4	Universal periodic review (September 15/17) UPR: the basics (M) UPR, Compilation of Information (W)
Week 5	Promotion: international law (September 22/24) Mertus, UN treaty bodies; OHCHR, UN HR system; ICRC, What is IHL? (M) Goodman/Jinks, Socializing states; HREA, IHL (W)

- Week 6 IHL and IHRL in practice (Sept. 29/Oct. 1)**
Matthews, The interaction between IHL and IHRL; UPR review of Colombia (M)
UPR review of Colombia, 2nd cycle, working group report (W)
- Week 7 Persuasion: NGOs and transnational advocacy networks (October 6/8)**
Keck/Sikkink, Transnational Advocacy Networks (M)
Cavanagh, Kony 2012 campaign: lessons (W)
- Week 8 Prevention and intervention: stopping atrocities (October 13/15)**
O'Connor/Rausch, Genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes (M)
Valentino, The True Costs of Humanitarian Intervention; UN Special Adviser on Genocide (W)
- Week 9 Mid-term week (October 20/22)**
- Week 10 Prosecution: Global justice? (October 27/29)**
How the ICC works; Basic facts about the ICC' Gourevitch, Mass murder (M)
Clark, International criminal law (W)
- Week 11 The right to health (November 3/5)**
OHCHR, Right to Health (M)
Friedman, et al., Realizing the Right to Health; Nadkarni/Vikram, Right to Health (W)
- Week 12 Human trafficking (November 10/12)**
Sullivan, Trafficking in human beings (M)
Hayes/Carpenter/Dwyer, Sex trafficking (W)
- Week 13 Gender-based violence (November 17/19)**
Merry, Creating human rights; ECHR, Violence against women (M)
WHO/UNICEF, Eliminating FGC/M (W)
- Week 14 Thanksgiving week (November 24/26)**
- Week 15 Minorities (December 1/3)**
Cleary, Indigenous rights resurgence (M)
Wrap-up and class evaluation (W)
- December 5 (Friday), 4.30pm: Final paper due.**
December 8 (Monday), 12.45-2.45pm: Final exam (010 Eggers Hall).

Disability services: Students who are in need of disability-related academic accommodations must register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS), 804 University Avenue, Room 309, 315-443-4498. Students with authorized disability-related accommodations should provide a current Accommodation Authorization Letter from ODS to the instructor and review those accommodations with the instructor. Accommodations, such as exam administration, are not provided retroactively; therefore, planning for accommodations as early as possible is necessary. For further information, see the ODS website: <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu>.

Academic integrity: The Syracuse University Academic Integrity Policy holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Students should be familiar with the Policy and know that it is their responsibility to learn about instructor and general academic expectations with regard to proper citation of sources in written work. The policy also governs the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments as well as the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verifications of participation in class activities. Serious sanctions can result from academic dishonesty of any sort; see: http://supolicies.syr.edu/ethics/acad_integrity.htm.

Religious observance: Students who will miss classes because of religious holidays must notify instructors by the end of the second week of the semester. The notification form can be found on MySlice inside of Student Services under Enrollment, click on "My Religious Observances." SU's religious observances policy can be found here: http://supolicies.syr.edu/studs/religious_observance.htm.

Email communication: Email is the primary vehicle for official communication among students, faculty, and staff. Instructional staff will use the official University email address to communicate with a student registered in their classes; see: <http://supolicies.syr.edu/it/email.htm>.