

International Human Rights: INTL 4620

Prof. Joshua L. Jackson joshua.jackson25@uga.edu

12:30p-1:45p TR 212 Baldwin Hall
Office Hours: W 2p-4p

Course Description: Human Rights is a rapidly-growing area of political science research, and many contemporary international political issues involve human rights concerns. News stories usually discuss the civil war in Syria not by focusing on the cause of the war or even precisely who the warring parties are, but rather by highlighting the war's extraordinary impact on civilians. The most widely read accounts of life inside Saddam Hussein's Iraq or the Kim family's North Korea focus on the daily atrocities against civilians. It therefore serves aspiring policymakers and researchers to understand why these human rights violations occur, what forms human rights violations can take, and what factors may lead to higher or lower levels of respect for human rights. In this course, you will learn about the historical foundations and current practice of protecting human rights.

This course is organized into three parts. First, we will explore the conceptual and historical origins of human rights and the introduction of international efforts to address them. We will then examine empirical patterns of human rights violations throughout time and across the world, grounding our knowledge in both cross-national studies and detailed historical examples. Finally, we will conclude the course by studying proposed solutions to actual human rights concerns and attempt to determine whether they align with the knowledge we have accumulated over the semester. By the end of this course, attentive students will be able to:

- Have a deep understanding of various definitions of and approaches to human rights, including both universally and culturally-informed perspectives.
- Have extensive knowledge about the many forms of human rights violations and where they are occurring.
- Use their expertise to understand and propose solutions to new human rights concerns.
- Be able to discuss contemporary efforts by governments, individuals, and international organizations to improve respect for human rights.
- Read research, policy papers, etc. about human rights concerns and be able to effectively examine the work for strengths and weaknesses.

Text(s): There are no textbooks to purchase for this course. Any readings assigned can be found on the course website or through JSTOR.

Grade Distribution:

Exams	40%
In-Class Simulations	30%
Attendance & Participation	10%
Quizzes	10%

Letter Grade Distribution:

≥ 93.00	A	73.00 - 76.99	C
90.00 - 92.99	A-	70.00 - 72.99	C-
87.00 - 89.99	B+	67.00 - 69.99	D+
83.00 - 86.99	B	63.00 - 66.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	60.00 - 62.99	D-
77.00 - 79.99	C+	≤ 59.99	F

Course Policies:

• General

- Computers are only to be used for taking notes. If you browse the internet or social media while in class, I will ask you to put your device away and use pen and paper for notes.
- Please set your phone on **silent**, not vibrate.
- Quizzes and exams are closed book, closed notes.

• Simulations

- There will be two simulations that will be completed in class. The simulations will be explained the class periods before and at the beginning of the simulation days. There will be no make-up for the simulation—you will receive an automatic 0 if you are absent.

• Attendance and Absences

- Attendance is expected and will be taken each class. You are allowed to miss 2 classes during the semester without penalty. Any further absences will result in a 1 point final grade reduction per absence.
- Students are responsible for all missed work, regardless of the reason for absence. It is also the absentee's responsibility to get all missing notes or materials. You are free to ask anyone for their notes, but please do not ask me for any materials.

Academic Honesty Policy Summary:

In addition to skills and knowledge, COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY aims to teach students appropriate Ethical and Professional Standards of Conduct. The Academic Honesty Policy exists to inform students and Faculty of their obligations in upholding the highest standards of professional and ethical integrity. All student work is subject to the Academic Honesty Policy. Professional and Academic practice provides guidance about how to properly cite, reference, and attribute the intellectual property of others. Any attempt to deceive a faculty member or to help another student to do so will be considered a violation of this standard.

Tentative Course Outline:

The weekly coverage might change as it depends on the progress of the class. This syllabus can change as often as needed, but I will give you plenty of advance notice and issue an updated syllabus when any changes are made.

This course is broken up into three broad sections: **Origins and Philosophies of Human Rights**, **Human Rights Violations**, and **Protecting Human Rights**. As you read through the course schedule, the week number and the day's topic will fall into the corresponding color code. This is merely to provide a bit of organization to the course; the categories are not perfectly distinct.

Week	Content
Week 1	<p>Tuesday: Conceptual Origins of Human Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Lauren, Paul Gordon. 1998. “Visions and the Birth of Human Rights,” in <i>The Evolution of Human Rights</i>. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, pp. 4-36. <p>Thursday: Institutional Origins of Human Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Lauren 1998. “The Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” in <i>The Evolution of Human Rights</i>, pp. 205-240.
Week 2	<p>Tuesday: Modern International Institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Forsythe, David P. 2001. <i>Human Rights in International Relations</i>. New York: Cambridge University Press, chapters 3 and 4. <p>Thursday: The Concept of Human Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Donnelly, Jack. 2003. “The Concept of Human Rights,” in <i>Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice</i>, 2nd ed. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Chapter 1.
Week 3	<p>Tuesday: Realism or Liberalism?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Forsyth 2001. <i>Human Rights in International Relations</i>, chapter 1. <p>Thursday: International Norms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Finnemore, Martha, and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. “International Norm Dynamics and Political Change.” <i>International Organization</i> 52(4): 887-917.

Week	Content
Week 4	<p>Tuesday: Hard and Soft Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Abbott, Kenneth W., and Duncan Snidal. 2000. “Hard and Soft Law in International Governance.” <i>International Organization</i> 54(3): 421-456. <p>Thursday: Organizing International Human Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Moravcsik, Andrew. 2000. “The Origins of Human Rights Regimes.” <i>International Organization</i> 54(2): 217-252.
Week 5	<p>Tuesday: Measuring and Studying Human Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Landman, Todd. 2002. “Comparative Politics and Human Rights.” <i>Human Rights Quarterly</i> 24(4): 890-923. <p>Thursday: Patterns and Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Poe, Steven C., C. Neal Tate, and Linda Camp Keith. 1999. “Repression of the Human Right to Personal Integrity Revisited: A Global Cross-National Study Covering the Years 1976-1993.” <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> 43(2): 291-313.
Week 6	<p>Tuesday: What is Torture? Who Tortures?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Rejali, Darius. 2007. <i>Torture and Democracy</i>. Princeton University Press, pp. 8-25 and 35-63. <p>Thursday: In-Class Simulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – No Reading
Week 7	<p>Tuesday: Review for Exam 1</p> <p>Thursday: Exam 1</p>

Week	Content
Week 8	<p>Tuesday: Government Killing: History, Causes, Patterns, and Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Harff, Barbara, and Ted Robert Gurr. 1988. “Toward Empirical Theory of Genocides and Politicides: Identification and Measurement of Cases since 1945.” <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> 32(3): 359-371. – Valentino, Benjamin, Paul Huth, and Dylan Balch-Lindsay. 2004. “Draining the Sea: Mass Killing and Guerilla Warfare.” <i>International Organization</i> 58(2): 375-407. <p>Thursday: In-Class Simulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Amnesty International 2008 Country Report: Sudan. – Amnesty International. 2009. “Empty Promises on Darfur: International Community Fails to Deliver.”
Week 9	<p>Tuesday: Female Genital Mutilation (Documentary)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Kalev, Henriette Dahan. 2004. “Cultural Rights or Human Rights: The Case of Female Genital Mutilation.” <i>Sex Roles</i> 51(5/6): 339-348. – Donnelly, Jack. 1984. “Cultural Relativism and Universal Human Rights.” <i>Human Rights Quarterly</i> 6(4): 400-419. <p>Thursday: Female Genital Mutilation (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – No new reading
Week 10	<p>Tuesday: Human Rights during Civil War</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Wood, Elisabeth. 2003. <i>Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador</i>. Cambridge Press, chapter 8. <p>Thursday: Human Rights during Civil War (Documentary)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Boler, Jean. 1985. “The Mothers Committee of El Salvador: National Human Rights Activists.” <i>Human Rights Quarterly</i> 7(4): 541-556.
Week 11	<p>Tuesday: Democracy, Democratization, and Human Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Davenport, Christian. 1999. “Human Rights and the Democratic Proposition.” <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 43(1): 92-116. <p>Thursday: Economic Globalization and Human Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Richards, David L., Ronald D. Gelleny, and David H. Sacko. 2001. “Money with a Mean Streak? Foreign Economic Penetration and Government Respect for Human Rights in Developing Countries.”

Week	Content
Week 12	<p>Tuesday: Interdependence and Human Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hafner-Burton, Emilie M. 2005. “Trading Human Rights: How Preferential Trade Agreements Influence Government Repression.” <i>International Organization</i> 59(3): 593-629. <p>Thursday: Naming and Shaming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Lebovic, James H., and Erik Voeten. 2006. “The Politics of Shame: The Condemnation of Country Human Rights Practices in the UN-HCR.” <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> 50(4): 861-888.
Week 13	<p>Tuesday: International Enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hathaway, Oona A. 2004. “The Promise and Limits of the International Laws of Torture,” in S. Levinson (ed.), <i>Torture</i>. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 199-212. <p>Thursday: Judicial Institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Staton, Jeffrey K., and Emilia Powell. 2009. “Domestic Judicial Institutions and Human Rights Treaty Violation.” <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> 53(1): 149-174.
Week 14	<p>Tuesday: Transitional Justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Akhavan, Payam. 1996. “The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda: The Political and Pragmatics of Punishment.” <i>The American Journal of International Law</i> 90(3): 501-510. <p>Thursday: Review for Final Exam</p>