



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS**

**POLI 481 L01 – Fall 2018
The Politics of Human Rights**

INSTRUCTOR: Andrew R. Basso
EMAIL: abasso@ucalgary.ca
OFFICE: SS 749
OFFICE HOURS: Mondays 10:00am-11:00am and by appointment
COURSE HOURS: M W F 9:00am-9:50am
COURSE LOCATION: SS 541
PREREQUISITES: One of POLI 310, 359, or 381

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

The overarching goal of this course is to help students understand the major theoretical advancements and debates in the field of human rights and how these relate to contemporary issues. We will engage in debates about contentious issues and histories to better understand how international rights regimes came to be, what they presently are, and how they can inform us on contemporary and future political problems. Analyzing the origins, evolutions, and contemporary politics of international human rights is central to this course.

This course focuses on the development of international human rights as a component of global governance, transnational politics, and international law. The course begins with a discussion of the meaning of human rights and how they have progressed over centuries of thought and action into the current United Nations human rights system. From there, we will examine central global human rights debates, their histories, and current statuses. Understanding patterns of violence including, but not limited to atrocity crimes, Indigenous issues, and displaced persons is central to understanding how human rights have been violated, how rights violations can be stopped, and how societies heal after rights violations. The importance of political violence to understanding human rights cannot be overstated. Finally, we will end the course looking forward into the possible futures of human rights in the 21st Century.

At the end of this course, students will have an introductory grounding into core aspects of the study of human rights and will be able to connect global debates to everyday lives and politics. Students will learn about central human rights laws and norms which apply internationally, regionally, and domestically. Engaging in critical human rights debates will aid in progressing student critical thinking. The literature review will aid in further refining student research, writing, and evaluation skills.

REQUIRED BOOKS

Michael Goodhart (ed.), *Human Rights: Politics and Practice, Third Edition* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016).

COURSE COMPONENTS, WEIGHTS, AND DUE DATES

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Mid-Term	25%	15 October 2018
Research Paper	35%	23 November 2018
Final Examination	40%	TBD (10-20 December 2018)
Total	100%	

COURSE MEETING SCHEDULE & TOPICS*

* The schedule is tentative and may change if the need arises.

Week One: What Are Human Rights?

- 7 September 2018
- Readings
 - o Chapter 9
 - o Universal Declaration of Human Rights
 - o International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
 - o International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

Week Two: The History of Human Rights, vol.1

- 10 September
- Readings
 - o Chapters 3 and 5

Week Three: The History of Human Rights, vol.2

- 17 September 2018
- Readings
 - o Chapter 6

Week Four: Freedom of Expression

- 24 September 2018
- Readings
 - o Chapters 7 and 10

Week Five: The Economics of Human Rights

- 1 October 2018
- Readings
 - o Chapters 12 and 13

Week Six: Women's Rights and Sexual Minority Rights

- **No Class on 8 October 2018 (Thanksgiving Day)**
- 8 October 2018

POLI 481 L01 (Fall 2018)

- Readings
 - o Chapters 2 and 11
 - o Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

Week Seven: The Right to an Adequate Standard of Living

- **Mid-Term (Monday, October 15, 2018)**
- 15 October 2018
- Readings
 - o Chapters 17 and 23
 - o Convention on the Rights of the Child

Week Eight: Atrocity Crimes and Flagrant Violations of Human Rights

- 22 October 2018
- Readings
 - o Chapters 20
 - o Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

Week Nine: Transitional Justice and Humanitarian Intervention

- 29 October 2018
- Readings
 - o Chapters 21 and 22

Week Ten: Rights of Indigenous Peoples

- 5 November 2018
- Readings
 - o Chapter 19
 - o UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Week Eleven: Fall Break

- 11 November 2018
- No Class; No Readings

Week Twelve: The Rights of Displaced and Trafficked Persons

- **Literature Review Due (Friday, November 23, 2018)**
- 19 November 2018
- Readings
 - o Chapters 16 and 18

Week Thirteen: Torture, Rights Mechanisms, and Enforcement

- 26 November 2018
- Readings
 - o Chapters 8 and 15

Week Fourteen: The Fragility of Human Rights in the 21st Century

- 3 December 2018
- Readings

- Chapter 9

MID-TERM EXAMINATION (25%)

The mid-term will be written in the regular course classroom (SS 541) and will begin at the start of class on **Monday, October 15, 2018**. Students will write a mid-term examination based on all course content in **lectures and assigned readings to the time of writing**. No study aids or notes will be permitted during the mid-term examination. Please refer to the grading rubric below for questions on grade distribution. Further instructions on the mid-term will be provided during course lectures.

LITERATURE REVIEW (35%)

Students will write a literature review on a research question provided by the instructor. There will be a list of 10 possible questions to answer and the list will be distributed in Week 2. The literature review **must at minimum reach 3,500 words in length (excluding bibliography and citations)**. The quality of writing, engagement with academic sources, originality of ideas, and quality of argumentation will all be significant determinants of grades earned. The literature review is due on **23 November 2018 at 11:59pm** and will be submitted via D2L. More information about this assignment will be provided during course lectures and through the course D2L website.

Papers must have proper bibliographic entries and citations. Papers **must at minimum cite 10 academic sources** (peer-reviewed books and journal articles). Additional sources **beyond** these 10 academic sources are encouraged and may include, but are not limited to: periodical publications, government reports, intergovernmental and non-governmental publications, newspaper articles, and non-peer reviewed websites. A Wiki citation of any sort will not be accepted and papers that do cite Wiki will be penalized. The goal of a literature review is to engage with existing literatures and formulate original arguments.

Literature reviews will be submitted electronically through the D2L course website. Please refer to the grade scale section provided in the syllabus for questions on grade distribution. Please refer to the late penalties section provided in the syllabus for questions on grade deductions. Please refer to the quality of writing section for questions on the importance of good writing. Further information about the nature and specifics of the literature review will be provided during course meetings.

FINAL EXAMINATION (40%)

The date of the final examination will be scheduled by the Registrar and it will be written on campus between 10 and 20 December 2018. Students will write a 3 hour final examination on **all course content**. No study aids or notes will be permitted during examination hours. Please refer to the grade scale section provided in the syllabus for questions on grade distribution. Further instructions on the final examination will be provided during course lectures.

WRITING STATEMENT

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, including this one, and the quality of writing skills, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity, citation, and organization, will be taken into account in the determination of grades. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre (3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library) or at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

CITATION STYLE GUIDE

Accepted citation styles include Chicago, APA, Harvard, and MLA. Failure to comply with these minimum standards will result in penalized literature reviews. Please refer to the citation links below for quick access to four different style guides.

Quick and Easy Citation Style Links:

- Chicago
 - o http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html
- APA
 - o <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>
- Harvard
 - o https://www.library.usyd.edu.au/subjects/downloads/citation/Harvard_Complete.pdf
- MLA
 - o <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

GRADE SCALE

The following grade scale will apply universally to all course components. The instructor is responsible for marking all course materials.

A+ (91-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (55-59)
A (85-90)	B (73-76)	C (63-66)	D (50-54)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (60-62)	F (0-49)

LATE PENALTIES

Late submission of literature reviews will result in a 5% loss of assignment grade per day (including Saturdays and Sundays). Literature reviews submitted 7 days after the due date will not be accepted unless documented emergencies arise or extensions are granted.

CONTACTING YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to email their instructor and attend office hours. Meetings outside of normal office hours are possible depending on the instructor's schedule. Do

not miss appointments without reasonable prior notice.

PROPER USE OF EMAIL

Students are expected to follow proper email etiquette when emailing their instructor or fellow students. This includes writing an appropriate subject line, addressing the email properly, and ensuring that spelling and grammar are correct. The instructor will answer proper emails within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends.

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Seminars may not be recorded using any audio or video devices unless consent by the instructor is explicitly given. Photography is prohibited unless instructor consent is given. All materials presented are the intellectual property of the instructor and may not be reproduced or utilized without expressed consent of the instructor. Special accommodations will absolutely be made with proper documentation from the Student Accessibility Services.

INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during class or their office hours. Email is a common form of communication but it is not always the most effective way of answering student questions. If you cannot attend office hours, please request a one on one meeting outside of these hours. Meetings outside of office hours are subject to the instructor's availability. It is to the student's advantage to keep such appointments unless reasonable prior notification of unavailability is given.

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course. Please be considerate of others and turn off all cellphones/smartphones and non-essential electronic devices when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts and browsing the Internet is extremely disruptive to others and will not be tolerated. Disruptive students will be asked to leave.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Absence From a Mid-term Examination:

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons (e.g. illness with the appropriate documentation) are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

Deferral of a Final Examination:

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination

timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Appeals:

If a student has a concern about the course or a grade they have been assigned, they must first discuss their concerns with the instructor. If this does not resolve the matter, the student then proceed with an academic appeal. The first step in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with the Department Head. Appeals must be requested within 15 days of receipt of the graded assignment.

University Regulations:

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the University policies found in the Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Plagiarism And Other Forms Of Academic Misconduct:

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP):

FOIP legislation requires that instructors maintain the confidentiality of student information. In practice, this means that student assignment and tests cannot be left for collection in any public place without the consent of the student. It also means that grades cannot be distributed via email. Final exams are kept by instructors but can be viewed by contacting them or the main office in the Department of Political Science. Any uncollected assignments and tests meant to be returned will be destroyed after six months from the end of term; final examinations are destroyed after one year.

Evacuation Assembly Points:

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

For program planning and advice, visit the Arts Students' Centre in Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580 or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit arts.ucalgary.ca/advising for program assistance.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit their office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

Important Contact Information:

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)

Phone: 403-220-5333

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives

Phone: 403-220-6551

Email: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Students' Union URL: www.su.ucalgary.ca

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca

URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca

Campus Mental Health Resources:

SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>