



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS**

**POLI 481 Lecture 01
The Politics of Human Rights
Winter 2021**

INSTRUCTOR: Mark Machacek

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OFFICE HOURS: Virtual office hours using Zoom (D2L) Tuesday & Thursday 13:45 – 14:30
or by appointment

COURSE DAY/TIME: Tuesday & Thursday 12:30 – 13:45 using Zoom (D2L)

(Live/synchronous classes)

DELIVERY METHOD: Web-Based

WEBSITE: <http://d2l.ucalgary.ca>

COURSE PRE-REQUISITES: One of POLI 310, 359 or 381

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will take place online via Desire2Learn (D2L) and Zoom. Synchronous (live) on-line lectures will be hosted using Zoom (hosted on D2L under the Communications tab) during the scheduled course times as indicated on this course outline. All live Zoom lectures will be recorded and posted on D2L under Content for students to access throughout the semester. Students are strongly encouraged to attend and participate in the scheduled live lectures. Correspondence between the instructor and the students will include email, D2L News updates, and virtual office hours using Zoom (on D2L). The instructor will respond to email inquiries and discussions in a timely manner between 09:00-17:00 Mon-Fri. Students are also encouraged to check for News updates regularly on D2L for any further updates from the instructor.

The purpose of this course is to introduce and critically engage with the evolution, theories, practices and politics of contemporary human rights. During the virtual Zoom lectures, students are strongly encouraged to actively discuss and debate contemporary issues of modern liberal human rights, including their universality, philosophical assumptions and relation to notions of ‘social justice’.

This course will begin with an introduction to the idea of human rights, working definitions and relevant core concepts, issues and main debates. It will then turn its attention to the primary actors and legal frameworks within the international human rights regime. It will then outline the ways in which human rights are understood and analysed from the perspectives of Comparative Politics and International Relations and will explore the challenges posed by their critics. The final section of the course will focus on particular human rights issues, including the right to development, Indigenous rights, women and LGBTQ+ community rights, refugee rights, the use of torture, the act of genocide and humanitarian intervention.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES

The objectives of this course are to:

- Introduce students to the core concepts, questions, critiques and theories of human rights and provide in-depth insight into human rights as a politicized process;
- Acquaint students with the primary actors, institutions and legal frameworks in the contemporary human rights regime and their historical evolution;
- Facilitate theoretically informed discussions and debates on contemporary human rights issues;
- Strengthen skills in academic analysis, discussion, research and writing

Upon completion of this course students should be able to:

- Engage in informed discussion on current human rights issues and debates;
- Understand the complexity of contemporary human rights issues and their challenges;
- Apply various theoretical perspectives to human rights issues;
- Conduct effective academic debate, research and writing

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S)

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

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY

In order to successfully engage in the learning experiences of this web-based course, students are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- A microphone and speaker (built-in or external) or a headset and microphone;
- Broadband internet connection
- Microsoft Word

Most current laptops will have a built-in speaker and microphone.

There is a D2L site for this course which contains required relevant class resources and materials (see d2l.ucalgary.ca).

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Mid-Term Exam	30%	February 26 at 18:00
Written Assignment	30%	March 18
Final Exam	40%	Scheduled by the Registrar (April 19-29)
Total	100%	

If a student misses a required course component, please get in touch the instructor as soon as possible.

COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Introduction		
Week 1 January 12	Introduction & Course Overview	No required readings
January 14	Introducing <i>Human Rights</i> -Discussion of the core concepts, issues and debates around human rights	Textbook Introduction & Chapter 1
Understanding, Problematizing and Analysing Human Rights		
Week 2 January 19	Challenging <i>Human Rights</i> -Engaging with the critiques of human rights	Textbook Chapter 7
January 21	Assignment Prep	
Week 3 January 26-28	The International Human Rights Regime -Outlining the primary international human rights actors and legal structures	Textbook Chapters 4 & 9
Week 4 February 2-4	International Relations and Human Rights -Consider the int'l human rights regime from the perspective of IR theory	Textbook Chapter 3
Week 5 February 9-11	Comparative Politics and Human Rights -Includes outlining the methods for measuring and monitoring human rights	Textbook Chapter 5 & 8
Week 6 February 14-20	READING WEEK No classes	
Human Rights Issues		
Week 7 February 23	Human Rights in Development I -Discussing the relationship between	Textbook Chapter 12

February 25-26	human rights and international development and the 'right to development' Mid-Term Exam (no live lecture)	
Week 8 March 2	Human Rights in Development II	Textbook Chapter 12
March 4	Indigenous Rights I -Exploring the evolution and nature of Indigenous peoples' rights	Textbook Chapter 19
Week 9 March 9	Indigenous Rights II	Textbook Chapter 19
March 11	Forced Migrant and Refugee Rights I -Outlining the rights of refugees and other forced migration populations	Textbook Chapter 18
Week 10 March 16	Forced Migrant and Refugee Rights II	Textbook Chapter 18
March 18	Women and LGBTQ+ Rights I -Exploring the evolution and nature of the rights of women and LGBTQ+ communities Written Assignment Due	Textbook Chapters 2 & 11
Week 11 March 23	Women and LGBTQ+ Rights II	Textbook Chapters 2 & 11
March 25	Torture I -Discussing the human rights issues surrounding the use of torture	Textbook Chapter 15
Week 12 March 30	Torture II	Textbook Chapter 15

April 1	Genocide I -Discussing genocide as a human rights violation	Textbook Chapter 20
Week 13 April 6	Genocide II	Textbook Chapter 20
April 8	Enforcing Human Rights: Humanitarian Intervention I -Outlining the debates and issues around humanitarian intervention for human rights protection	Textbook Chapter 14 & 21
Week 14 April 13	Humanitarian Intervention II	Textbook Chapter 14 & 21
April 15	Course Overview	

Please note that the above schedule is tentative and may change as the need arises.

MID-TERM EXAMINATION (30%)

The mid-term examination will be an open book exam posted on D2L Thursday February 25th at 09:00. It will be due in the D2L Mid-Term Exam Dropbox by February 26th at 18:00. Submissions after this time will be subject to a 5% grade penalty. There will be no scheduled lecture on the day the exam is posted.

The exam will consist of 3 long answer questions where students can choose from a list of questions. Students will be expected to write approximately 2 pages per question. All the material covered in the required readings and live online lectures will be eligible to be on the exam. The quality and clarity of writing will be an important component of the grading criteria.

Further information on the mid-term exam will be provided during the online lecture on February 11th, 2020.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT (30%)

Students will be expected to conduct research and write a 10-page (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font) paper on a human rights issue of the students choosing. The research paper is expected to outline and offer a theoretically informed evaluation of at least one debate surrounding the issue (i.e. on the use of torture; on the definition of a ‘refugee’). Students should consult with the instructor regarding their issue of choice no later than February 20th.

Students are expected to collect relevant perspectives of their issue through research of at least 10 academic sources (i.e. peer-reviewed journals, books, book chapters). Sources are to be cited using

either APA, MLA or Chicago citation style. Papers are to be submitted to the D2L Assignment Dropbox no later than March 18th at 23:59.

The paper will be graded according to the student's demonstrated research on the human rights issue, their understanding and articulation of the debate(s) surrounding the issue, the application of theory to evaluate the debate(s), paper organization and writing proficiency.

Further information for the assignment, including a comprehensive grading rubric, will be provided in class January 21st.

FINAL EXAMINATION (40%)

The cumulative final examination will be scheduled by the Registrar. It is designed as a timed 2-hour exam but students will have a total of 3 hours to complete it. It will consist of 2 parts: 2-3 short answer and 1 long answer questions. All the material covered in the required readings and lectures throughout the course is eligible to be on the exam. The clarity of writing will be an important component of the grading criteria. Students will be able to access the exam within a 24-hour period (as scheduled by the Registrar).

Further information for the final exam will be provided in class April 15th.

WRITING STATEMENT

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, 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 by contacting them at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

GRADING SCALE: The following grading scale will be used:

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

For the written assignment and mid-term, late submissions to Dropbox will receive a grade penalty of 5% and an additional 5% for each day that they are late following the submission due dates. The 5% per day penalty will not be applied to weekend days.

INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during class or their office hours. Should you wish to meet outside of office hours, please telephone or email to make an appointment. It is to the student's advantage to keep such appointments. All meetings will be held virtually.

Email is a common form of communication but it is not always the most effective way of answering student questions. If you cannot make office hours, please request a one on one meeting outside of these hours, to be held virtually.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration

As stated in the University Calendar:

Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, third party letter of support or a statutory declaration etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at [ucalgary.ca/registrar](https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar)). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are available to students at no charge, on campus. For a list of locations to access a Commissioners for Oaths, visit [ucalgary.ca/registrar](https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar)).

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

This statement is accessible at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

Absence From a Mid-term Examination

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons 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.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Required Access to Technology

Please see the University's resource page at https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it?id=kb_article&sys_id=86e7438013753ac06f3afbb2e144b031

Copyright Legislation

As stated in the University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, "students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright and

requirements of the copyright act to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.”

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-electronic-resources-and-information-policy.pdf> and <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

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.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

For program planning and advice, please consult with the Arts Students' Centre by calling 403-220-3580 or by email at 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].

Important Contact Information

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: askgsa@ucalgary.ca

URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman
Phone: 403-220-6420
Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca

Campus Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the following resources:

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

Student Wellness Services:
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>

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