The aims of this course are, first, to explore the role of human rights in politics – specifically, international politics; and second, to explore the role of politics in human rights. Since human rights are, by definition, allegedly applicable to all human beings, it makes sense to explore their political relevance from a global perspective. That said, human rights and their implementation have generated much debate, especially surrounding the ‘universality’ of ideas of human rights. In order to understand the practical significance of international human rights standards, it is necessary to understand the theoretical origins of the notion of human rights – in theories of natural law and early liberalism – as well as contemporary feminist and non-Western critiques of human rights. The course will also address the role and nature of international law and the UN human rights system, the role of human rights in foreign policy and development the expansion of human rights accountability to include non-state actors, the relationship between human rights and security in contemporary world politics, and the international criminal court.

The goal for students should be to gain a critical awareness of the role and nature of human rights – both as moral claims and legal instruments – in world politics. At all times, students will be urged to think critically about the claims being made in the readings, as well as about our everyday understandings of human rights. One key concept that will be discussed frequently is the concept of power, and the way in which human rights can be used, paradoxically, both to subvert and support the powerful.
FORMAT

The class will meet once every week for a three hour period. Each week, the first 45-50 minutes will consist of a lecture on the week’s topic. Following this there will be a short (10 minutes maximum) break. After the break, the class will break up into groups to discuss the weekly discussion questions for approximately 20 minutes. Each week, a group leader will report on their group’s answers; these contributions will act as a series of starting points for a wider class discussion. Following another short break, I will round out the class with a summary and conclusion. From time to time, this format will vary, due to either the presence of guest speakers in the class, or films to be shown.

TEXTBOOKS AND READINGS


All other readings for the course will either be placed on reserve in the MacOdrum Library, or are available on-line.

EVALUATION

Mid Term Test: 25% (October 19th)
Research Essay: 35% (November 30th)
Final Exam: 40% (to be scheduled during formal exam period, December 6 – 22)

**Please note: while there are no formal marks for participation, attendance in class, and participation in class discussions, will be taken into account when calculating final grades**

1. **Mid-term test**: There will be a mid-term test in class on Thursday October 19th. The test will be two hours in length. The test will consist of short answer/definition questions, and one essay question.

2. **Research Essay**: Students are required to complete one research essay, of approximately 12-15 pages. Student may choose their own topic (in consultation with the instructor). However, the topic of the essay must directly address the politics of international human rights. The essay must follow proper essay style and structure, and must use a recognized referencing style (the referencing style must be correct and consistent). Students are expected to undertake research using sources beyond those listed in the course outline. The essays are due in class on November 30th.

3. **Final Exam**: There will be a final exam during the scheduled exam period (December 6 – 22). The exam will be 3 hours long and will consist of definitions, short answers and essay questions.
OTHER INFORMATION

Late Assignments: Extensions beyond the original due date will not be granted. If you are ill (with a doctor’s note) or have another legitimate reason for lateness, please see the instructor as soon as possible (preferably before the due date). One grade point per day will be deducted for late assignments. Friday to Monday will count as one day. Late papers should be either handed to me directly during my office hours, or placed in the Political Science Drop Box before 4pm on the day of submission. Papers submitted after 4pm will be stamped with the following day’s date.

Weekly Schedule

WEEK 1  Introduction: Putting the ‘Politics’ into Human Rights
September 7

Tony Evans, ‘Chapter 1: The Politics of Universal Human Rights’.


WEEK 2  Human Rights and Power
September 14

Tony Evans, ‘Chapter 2: The Discourse of Universal Human Rights’.


WEEK 3 Human Rights: Intellectual and Political History  
September 21

Jeremy Waldron, *Nonsense Upon Stilts*, chs. 1 & 2 (‘Natural rights in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries’ and The ‘Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen’)


Week 4 Feminist Perspectives and Women’s Human Rights  
September 28


*Film:  ‘The Vienna Tribunal’*

WEEK 5 States, Norms and International Law  
October 5


Tony Evans, ‘Chapter 3: International Human Rights Law and Global Politics’.


Film: ‘The Toughest Job in the World’

Week 6  Globalization  
October 12


Evans, ‘Chapter 4: The Political Economy of Human Rights’.


WEEK 7  **Mid-term**  
October 19

WEEK 8 Enlarging human rights accountability  
October 26


Film: Working Women of the World

WEEK 9 Civil Society  
November 2


Tony Evans, ‘Chapter 6: The Promise of Global Community and Human Rights’.

Film: ‘WTO Battle of Seattle’

Week 10 Human rights, Democracy and Foreign Policy
November 9


Tony Evans, ‘Chapter 5: Globalization, Democracy and Human Rights’


Week 11 Humanitarian Intervention
November 16


Alex Bellamy, ‘Responsibility to Protect or Trojan Horse? The Crisis in Darfur and Humanitarian Intervention after Iraq’, Ethics and International Affairs, 19(2), 2005:31-53.

**Week 12 Human Rights and Human Security**

**November 23**


**Week 13 Terrorism and Human Rights in the Post-9/11 Context (and Review)**

**November 30**


**Film: ‘Canada in the Age of Terror’**

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**Academic Accommodations**

**For Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact the Paul Menton
Centre (PMC) for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) to complete the necessary forms. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs at least two weeks before the first in-class test or CUTV midterm exam. This will allow for sufficient time to process your request. Please note the following deadlines for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations: November 6th, 2006 for fall and fall/winter term courses, and March 9th, 2007 for winter term courses.

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another." The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work. Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at: www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/styleguide.pdf

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640.
Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Approval of final grades:** Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

**Course Requirements:** Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure – No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

**Connect Email Accounts:** The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See http://connect.carleton.ca for instructions on how to set up your account.