

**PSCI 3802A / ANTH 3027A / SOCI 3027A**  
**Globalization & Human Rights**  
**11:35 a.m. – 2:25 p.m. Tuesday & Thursdays**  
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

**Instructor:** Dr. Eric Van Rythoven  
**Office:** B647  
**Office Hours:** 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays  
**Email:** [EricVanRythoven@cmail.carleton.ca](mailto:EricVanRythoven@cmail.carleton.ca)

**Contact Policy:** Email is the best way to contact me. I will normally reply within 48 hours, weekends excluded. Please include the course code in the subject line of the email. For longer questions please come see me during office hours. If you are unable to come during my regular office hours, email me to schedule an appointment or feel free to speak with me before or after class.

## 1. Course Overview

The spread of human rights represents one of the defining features of globalization, yet the growth of these rights is often contested and uneven. The central focus of this course is a critical appraisal of the spread, challenge, and purpose of human rights in contemporary global politics. In doing so the course will explore the political, legal, and normative foundations of modern human rights, as well as key topics including torture, asylum, gender, and indigenous rights. Later in the course we assess more recent challenges and questions posed by the globalization of human rights including the role of security, emotion and images, as well as memory and memorialization. At the end of the course we will reflect on contemporary opposition to human rights through debates over the phenomenon of 'backlash'.

## 2. Aims and Objectives

The central aim of the course is to provide students with an advanced introduction to the study of human rights and globalization. While the bulk of the readings come from the discipline of International Relations (IR), several readings are interdisciplinary in character. Students will therefore receive a range of interdisciplinary perspectives on the globalization of human rights, including from sociology, history, political theory, criminology, and visual studies.

By the end of the course students will comprehend key concepts, theories, and debates in the study of human rights and globalization, identify and analyze key trends and problems, and be able to generate critical and informed views on events and processes in the global politics of human rights.

### 3. Required Texts

Michael Goodhart, *Human Rights: Politics and Practice*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016.

The textbook can be purchased at the Carleton University bookstore. Please note: only the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition should be used for this course. A reserve copy will be available at the library. All other required readings will be posted online.

### 4. Evaluation

Attendance .....	10%
Midterm Exam.....	25%
Final Exam.....	25%
Reaction Paper #1.....	20%
Reaction Paper #2.....	20%

Papers are to be handed in at the end of class on the day they are due. If they are not submitted in class, they must be submitted to the drop box outside the Political Science Department before 4pm (in Loeb Building B640).

*Late Paper Policy:* Papers are deducted 3% for each day they are late (e.g. an 80% grade becomes 77% for 1 day late). Weekends count as 1 day late.

#### Attendance (10%)

This class will rely heavily on a seminar format where students actively engage with the readings and contribute to the discussion during the lecture. The reading load is heavy, but I have compensated for this by giving fewer and briefer assignments. I therefore expect all students to attend class and come prepared to discuss the weekly readings. When participating, please remain focused on the quality of your contribution rather than the quantity.

Class lectures will often go beyond the assigned readings and can incorporate videos, audio recordings, news stories, and a range of other materials. All lecture material is subject to being on exams. Arriving late or leaving early will result in being marked as absent for the class.

To accommodate illnesses and extracurricular events I allow students to miss up to two classes. Students who miss five or more classes will receive '0' for their attendance grade. Students are responsible for all course material and announcements made during class. If you are unable to attend class because of a documented medical illness, please let me know as soon as possible.

### Midterm (25%)

The midterm exam will be written in class and covers readings and lectures from classes 1-6. The exam will be divided between multiple choice, short answer, and long-form essay questions. Students will have three hours to write the exam.

### Reactions Papers (20% x 2)

Students will write **two** two-page single-spaced reaction papers on different assigned readings from the course. The purpose of the reaction paper is for you to engage in an in-depth examination of an academic article or book chapter and to give a critical appraisal of its merits and weaknesses. Each reaction paper will:

1. Summarize the central arguments and concepts of the reading
2. Assess strengths and weaknesses of the argument
3. Evaluate the argument's significance for understanding human rights and globalization
4. Pose two discussion questions

Readings eligible for reaction papers are marked with the '®' symbol in the reading list below. Reactions papers are due on the day that the reading is discussed in class. For example, a reactionary paper covering Amartya Sen's (1999) "Democracy as a Universal Value" would be due on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Final Exam (25%)

The final exam for this course will be an open book take-home exam. The exam will be focused on long-form essay questions and will cover material from the entire course. Sources must be cited appropriately in either Chicago, APA, or MLA styles. Students will be issued the examination questions at the end of the final class on Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. The exam is due on June 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am and must be submitted electronically via cuLearn. It is acceptable to participate in group discussions as you prepare for the written exam, but your exam must be written by you alone.

## **5. Course Schedule & Assigned Readings**

### Week 1

#### Class 1 | May 7<sup>th</sup> | Course Introduction: The Globalization of Human Rights

- Goodhart, Michael (2016) "Introduction" in *Human Rights: Politics and Practice*, 1-8.
- Donnelly, Jack (2017) "Human Rights in Global Politics: A Historical Perspective" in *International Human Rights*, 3–19.

## Class 2 | May 9th | Theoretical and Normative Foundations

- Langlois, Anthony J. "Normative and Theoretical Foundations of Human Rights" in *Human Rights: Politics in Practice*, Chapter 1, 11-27.
- Dunne, Tim and Hanson, Marianne "Human Rights in International Relations" in *Human Rights: Politics and Practice*, Chapter 3, 44-59.
- © Shafir, Gershon and Alison Brysk (2006) "The Globalization of Rights: From Citizenship to Human Rights" *Citizenship Studies* 10(3): 275-287.

## Week 2

### Class 3 | May 14<sup>th</sup> | States, Law, and International Organizations

- Smith, Rhona K.M. (2016) "Human Rights in International Law" in *Human Rights: Politics in Practice*, Chapter 4, 60-76.
- © Donnelly, Jack (2014) "State Sovereignty and International Human Rights" *Ethics and International Affairs* 28(2): 225-238.
- © Carpenter, R. Charli. 2010. "Governing the global agenda: "Gatekeepers" and "issue adoption" in transnational advocacy networks." In *Who governs the globe?*, 202-37.

### Class 4 | May 16<sup>th</sup> | Political and Civil Rights

- Davenport, Christian (2016) "Political Democracy and State Repression of Minorities" in *Human Rights: Politics in Practice*, Chapter 14, 235-254.
- © Sen, Amartya (1999) "Democracy as a Universal Value" *Journal of Democracy* 10(3): 3-17.
- © Cohen, Jean (2008) "Rethinking Human Rights, Democracy, and Sovereignty in the Age of Globalization" *Political Theory* 36(4): 578-606.

## Week 3

### Class 5 | May 21<sup>st</sup> | Political Violence and Genocide

- Schulz, William F. (2016) "Torture" in *Human Rights: Politics in Practice*, Chapter 15, 255-272.
- © Steele, Brent J. (2008), "'Ideals that were really never in our possession': Torture, Honor and US Identity" *International Relations* 22(2): 243-261.

- © Glanville, Luke (2011), "Darfur and the Responsibilities of Sovereignty" *International Journal of Human Rights* 15(3): 462-480.

#### Class 6 | May 23<sup>rd</sup> | Migration and Asylum

- Loescher, Gil (2018) "Human Rights and Forced Migration" in *Human Rights: Politics in Practice*, Chapter 18, 311-332.
- © Little, Adrian and Nick Vaughn-Williams (2016) "Stopping boats, saving lives, securing subjects: Humanitarian borders in Europe and Australia" *European Journal of International Relations* 23(3): 533-556.
- © Johnson, Heather (2011), "Click to Donate: Visual Images, Constructing Victims and Imagining the Female Refugee" *Third World Quarterly* 32(6): 1015-1053.

#### Week 4

#### Class 7 | May 28<sup>th</sup> | Midterm Exam

- No readings

#### Class 8 | May 30<sup>th</sup> | The Rights of Women and Sexual Minorities

- Ackerly, Brooke (2016) "Feminist and Activist Approaches to Human Rights" in *Human Rights: Politics in Practice*, Chapter 2, 28-43.
- Keating, Christine (Cricket) and Cynthia Burack (2016) "Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Human Rights" in *Human Rights: Politics in Practice*, Chapter 11, 182-197.
- © Corredor, Elizabeth S. (2019) "Unpacking 'Gender Ideology' and the Global Right's Antigender Countermovement" *Signs* 44(3): 613-638.

#### Week 5

#### Class 9 | June 4<sup>th</sup> | Rights, Security, and the Age of Exceptionalism

- © Duffy, Helen (2008) "Human rights litigation and the 'war on terror'" *International Review of the Red Cross* 90(871): 573-597.
- © Aradau, Claudia and Rens Van Munster (2009) "Exceptionalism and the 'War on Terror': Criminology Meets International Relations" *British Journal of Criminology* 49(5): 686-701.
- © Watson, Scott (2011) "The 'human' as referent object? Humanitarianism as securitization" *Security Dialogue* 42(1):3-20.

## Class 10 | June 6<sup>th</sup> | Indigenous Rights as Human Rights

- Havemann, Paul (2016) "Indigenous People's Human Rights" in *Human Rights: Politics in Practice*, Chapter 19, 333-350.
- © Lightfoot, Sheryl (2016) *Global Indigenous Politics: A Subtle Revolution*, 1-25.
- © Lackenbauer, P.W. and A.F. Cooper (2007). "The Achilles heel of Canadian international citizenship: Indigenous diplomacies and state responses." *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal* 13(3): 99-119.

## **Week 6**

### Class 11 | June 11<sup>th</sup> | Human Rights and the Politics of Memory

- © Levy, Daniel and Natan Sznaider (2002) "Memory Unbound: The Holocaust and the Formation of Cosmopolitan Memory" *European Journal of Social Theory* 5(1):87-106.
- © Mälksoo, Maria (2009) "The memory politics of becoming European: The East European subalterns and the collective memory of Europe" *European Journal of International Relations* 15(4):653-680

### Class 12 | June 13<sup>th</sup> | Emotion, Images, and Rights

- © Hunt, Lynn. (2007) "Torrents of Emotion" in *Inventing Human Rights: A History*, 35-69.
- © Ross, Andrew A.G. "Emotions and Ethics in International Relations" (forthcoming)
- Sliwinski, Sharon (2018) "Human Rights" in *Visual Global Politics*, 169-175.

## **Week 7**

### Class 13 | June 18<sup>th</sup> | Backlash and the Struggle For (and Against) Human Rights

- Gilmour, Andrew. (2018) "The global backlash against human rights" *United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights*  
<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23202&LangID=E>
- © Vinjamuri, Leslie. (2017) "Human Rights Backlash" in *Human Rights Futures*, 114-134.

- © Van Rythoven, Eric (2018) “On Backlash: Emotion and the Politicisation of Security” *European Review of International Studies* 5(3):139-160.

Take-home exam uploaded at the end of class

## 6. Academic Accommodations

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

**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](http://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 University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;

- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

**Submission and Return of Term Work:** Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. 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. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Grading:** Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

**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.



**Carleton E-mail Accounts:** All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

**Carleton Political Science Society:** The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/politicalsciencesociety/> or come to our office in Loeb D688.

**Official Course Outline:** The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.