

**LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**  
**POLI 2313WDE: HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL**  
**LIBERTIES**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Instructor:** Dr. S. Serajul Islam, Ph.D. (McGill)

**Consultation:** students may contact me through the course e-mail (recommended method) or via my personal Lakehead University e-mail account: sislam2@lakeheadu.ca

**Introducing Myself**

Hi everyone, welcome to this class of Global Terrorism. Before getting into the course outline I want to briefly introduce myself. This is Dr. Islam, Professor in the Department of Political Science at Lakehead University. I graduated with my doctorate, Ph.D. from McGill University. Since obtaining my doctorate I have been teaching courses in International law and politics. I have taught in many universities in many countries of the world. I have written 9 books and nearly 80 articles in internationally reputed journals. If you would like to know more about me, please visit the university's [Political Science website](#).

Let's now go through the course outline.:

**CONTENT**

This course explores some aspects of human rights that has both national and international application. It introduces the concept of human rights from the interdisciplinary perspectives and then moves into examining the practices of human rights in various areas of our life through the perspectives of laws on human rights. Thus, the course is divided into two parts. The first part deals with theoretical foundations and concepts of Human Rights. The second part analyzes practical issues of Human Rights in different dimensions of human life in domestic, constitutional, regional, and international contexts

**OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOME**

- a. Students will be able to understand the key concepts in Human Rights.
- b. Students will be able to analyze the contemporary challenges and trends in human rights theory and practice.
- c. Students will have the understanding of international treaties, covenant and conventions on Human Rights.
- d. Students will be able to see the application of Human Rights in the Canadian context.
- e. In future students will be able to make policy arguments on human rights issues.

**Teaching Methodology:**

The course material will consist of online modules, discussions, and audio-visuals. For assistance using Desire2Learn (D2L), please visit the Getting Started link under the Important Information link on the

navigation bar above. You may also contact the Office of Continuing Education and Distributed Learning for technical assistance with D2L. They can be reached by email at [cedl.support@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:cedl.support@lakeheadu.ca)

## **Marking Scheme:**

*Midterm Test 40% - available February 15 -February 16, between 6:00 a.m. and 11.59 p.m. EST - 80 Minutes*

*Final Exam 50% - available April 11-April12, between 6:00 a.m. and 11.59 p.m. EST - 100 Minutes*

*Participation 10% - posting comments (in at least 10 Discussion forums).*

## **Discussion Forums**

DISCUSSION FORUM WILL OPEN/CLOSE EACH WEEK ON MONDAY AT 6 a.m.

Twelve discussion areas are set up for this course. The **General Discussion** area is for discussing any difficulties you may be having about a particular concept, to collaborate with peers, or to discuss just about anything you want to share with your fellow students. The other discussion areas are for responding to and discussing the weekly discussion question. Participation in the latter forums will be graded. For participation marks in the graded forums, students are required to comment on each topic of the week, in AT LEAST 10 FORUMS. Students have one week to respond to others in discussion forum. Students can debate, raise questions and comment on each others' responses.

I will be visiting the Discussion Forums regularly but grading will be done in total at the end of the semester.

### **Tips for Participating on a Discussion Board**

- Think ideas through before responding. You do not want to respond to be considered flaming. It often helps to outline responses before responding. Be polite and respectful.
- Use good communication skills. Keep your comments concise, but do meet the requirements posted for discussion by the instructor. Avoid brief affirmations such as "Amen", "Ditto", and "I agree". Don't quote or copy long passages from a previous post. Quote only the relevant portions to make your response clear.
- Pay careful attention to instructions. Be sensitive with your use of language.
- Use subject lines in your post to keep the flow going for a certain discussion item. Be sure to change the subject line if you are changing the direction of the discussion.
- Try to stay on track and respond directly to comments being made. (Adapted from Dakota State University, Distance Education Orientation website)

Mandatory participation is required to obtain participation marks. Students will participate in these forums by accessing the "Discussion Area" under the Collaborate link on the navigation menu bar above.

**Participation marks will be determined on the basis of quantity of threads/postings and quality of comments in Discussion.**

## **Examinations**

Preparation:

There are No assignments in this course. There are two exams: Mid Term and the Final Examinations. Both examinations will be taken ONLINE from any computer, even from your home. Each examination must be taken on the assigned dates. NO request for supplemental tests or alternative dates will be accepted, including ones concerning technical issues with your computer. It is your responsibility to ensure you have access to a reliable system at all times throughout the term.

Midterm test and Final Exam will consist of 80 and 100 multiple choice and T/F (true and false) questions respectively. Every question has to be answered. Each question has a weight of .5 marks. Each question will contain 2 to 4 answer choices. The Mid Term will cover the materials discussed in the first 10 modules and from the first 10 Chapters in the textbook.

The Final will cover the materials discussed in modules 11 to 23 and from Chapters 11 to 23 in the Textbook.

**Every student may not get the same set of multiple-choice questions.**

All exams are to be done independently. Since the tests and exam are timed, spending time looking through your notes and textbook increases your risk of running short on time. Time is a part of the challenge in writing tests and exams! Use your time wisely! A sample exam is available under Quizzes (found under the Assessments link above) to give you a sense of the format of the exam questions and provide you with some familiarity of the quizzing tool. When taking the real exams, please remember to continually save your answers throughout the exams to avoid loss of work in the event of a technical issue. A reminder about this will be visible in each exam.

### **YOUTUBE DOCUMENTARIES**

**In order to watch the Youtube Video documentaries you need to copy the web page and paste in Google. You may not be able to watch them directly clicking on them. In case, if you cannot watch any video nothing to worry as there will be NO questions in the exams from the videos.**

### **Textbook:**

Michael Goodhart, *Human Rights, Politics and Practices*, (Oxford University Press, 2016) (available through the university Bookstore)

OR

Online from Amazon/Publisher: Oxford University Press

### **Recommended Books**

1. Claude and B.H. Weston, ed. *Human Rights in the World Community: Issues and Actions*.
2. Mark Janis – *European Human Rights Law: texts and materials*.
3. D.J. Harris – *Law of the European Convention on Human Rights*.

4. Henry Steiner & Philip Alston, *International Human Rights in Context- Law, Politics and Morals*

5. Jack Donnelly -*International Human Rights-*

6. Jack Donnelly – *Human Rights in Theory and Practice,*

7. Thomas Meron - *Human Rights in International Law..*

8. Rhona Smith, *International Human Rights Law.*

9. Daniel Moeckli, Sangeeta Shah, Sandesh Sivakumaran, David Harris, *International Human Rights Law.*

10. Rhona Smith, *Textbook on International Human Rights*

## Course Schedule: Modules and Readings

Date	Module	Topic	Readings
Week 1	Module 1	Normative and Theoretical Foundations of Human Rights	Goodhart :Chapter 1

Week 2	Module 2	Feminist and Activist Approaches to Human Rights,	Chapter 2
Week 2	Module 3	Human Rights in International Relations,	Chapter 3
Week 3	Module 4	Human Rights in International Law,	Chapter 4
Week 3	Module 5	Human Rights in Comparative Politics,	Chapter 5
Week 4	Module 6	Sociological and Anthropological Approaches	Chapter 6
Week 4	Module 7	Contemporary Critiques of Human Rights	Chapter 7
Week 5	Module 8	Measuring and Monitoring Human Rights,	Chapter 8
Week 5	Module 9	Global Civil Society and Human Rights	Chapter 9
Week 6	Module 10	Human Rights and Religion,	Chapter 10.
Feb 15-16		<b>MID TERM TEST ONLINE</b>	80 minutes


Week 7	Module 11	Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Human Rights,	Chapter 11
Week-7	Module 12	Human Rights and Politics in Development,	Chapter 12
Week-8	Module 13	Economic Globalization and Human Rights	Chapter 13
Week-8	Module 14	Political Democracy and State Repression	Chapter 14
Week-9	Module 15	Torture	Chapter 15
Week 9	Module 16	Human Trafficking	Chapter 16
Week-10	Module 17	Children's Human Rights	Chapter 17
Week-10	Module 18	Human Rights and Forced Migration	Chapter 18
Week-11	Module 19	Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights	Chapter 19
Week-11	Module 20	Genocide and Human Rights	Chapter 20
Week-12	Module 21	Humanitarian Intervention	Chapter 21
Week-12	Module 22	Transitional Justice	Chapter 22
Week-13	Module23	The Environment	Chapter 23
Apr. 11-12		Final Exam: ONLINE	100 min