

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

POLI 2313: 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 or via my personal Lakehead University e-mail account: sislam2@lakeheadu.ca.

Introducing Myself

Hi everyone, welcome to this class of Human Rights and Civil Liberties. 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 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 aspects of human rights that have both national and international application. It first introduces the concept of human rights from 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.

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 your response to be considered flaming. It often helps to outline responses before posting. 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 Discussions link on the navigation menu bar in D2L.

Participation marks will be determined on the basis of quantity of threads/postings and quality of comments in Discussion.(Overall Marks will be given only at the end of the course Not after every forum)

EXAMINATIONS

Preparation:

There are No papers 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.

Remember the test can be written at any time within the specified time period but **once you start your test you get 90 minutes for Midterm Test and 110 minutes only for Final exam.**

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 test will cover the materials discussed in the first 10 modules and from the first 10 Chapters in the textbook.

The Final Exam 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 Quizzes link in D2L) 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

Most of the videos are embedded and may be viewed in the D2L site. In order to watch some YouTube documentaries, you may need to copy the URL and paste it in a search engine. You may not be able to watch them directly clicking on them. In any case, if you cannot watch any video, there is nothing to worry about as there will be NO questions in the exams from the videos. The videos are provided as useful supplementary information.

TEXTBOOK:

Michael Goodhart, *Human Rights, Politics and Practices* (Oxford University Press, 2016) (available through the university Bookstore).ISBN: 9780198708766

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	Readings	Topic
Week 1 Foundations of Human Rights	Module 1	GOODHART : Chapter 1	Normative and Theoretical
Week 2 Human Rights,	Module 2	"	Feminist and Activist Approaches to Chapter 2
Week 2 Relations,	Module 3	"	Human Rights in International Chapter 3

Week 3 Law,	Module 4	"	Human Rights in International Chapter 4
Week 3 Politics,	Module 5	"	Human Rights in Comparative Chapter 5
Week 4 Approaches	Module 6	"	Sociological and Anthropological Chapter 6
Week 4 Rights	Module 7	"	Contemporary Critiques of Human Chapter 7
Week 5 Rights,	Module 8	"	Measuring and Monitoring Human Chapter 8
Week 5 Rights	Module 9	"	Global Civil Society and Human Chapter 9
Week 6 Religion,	Module 10	"	Human Rights and Chapter 10.

**STUDY BREAK: February 27-28, MID TERM
TEST ONLINE**

90 minutes

Week 7 and Human Rights,	Module 11	GOODHART	Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Chapter 11
Week-7 Development,	Module 12	"	Human Rights and Politics in Chapter 12
Week-8 Rights	Module 13	"	Economic Globalization and Human Chapter 13
Week-8 Repression	Module 14	"	Political Democracy and State Chapter 14
Week-9 15	Module Torture Chapter 15	"	
Week 9 Trafficking er 16	Module 16	"	Human Chapt

Week-10 Rights	Module 17	Children's Human " Chapter 17
Week-10 Migration	Module 18	Human Rights and Forced " Chapter 18
Week-11 Rights	Module 19	Indigenous Peoples' Human " Chapter 19
Week-11 Rights	Module 20	Genocide and Human " Chapter 20
Week-12 Intervention	Module 21	Humanitarian " Chapter 21
Week-12 Justice 22	Module 22	Transitional " Chapter
Week-13 Environment Chapter 23	Module23	The "

**April. 12-13, FINAL
EXAM:
minutes**

ONLINE

110

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Lakehead University Grading Scale	
A+	90-100%
A	80-89%
B	70-79%
C	60-69%
D	50-59%
E Fail	40-49%

F Fail	1-39%
F Academic Dishonesty	0%

Course Drop Deadline

Please be aware of the deadline to drop the course.

Student Courtesy

I expect all students to be respectful in their interactions with any person involved with the course.

Tests, Exams and Term Work

If you are going to miss a test, it is very important that you email me as soon as you know that you will be missing the test. Missed tests will be accommodated only in extraordinary circumstances that are supported by written documentation from a healthcare practitioner using the official Student Health Certificate, available at

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/examination/medical-notes/node/10641>

Extensions of deadlines for completion of assignments or writing of midterms/final examinations may be granted to students on the basis of illness, accident, or other extreme and legitimate circumstances beyond their control. Consideration for deferrals will not normally be granted on the basis of vacation/travel plans or job-related obligations.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism, cheating and academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. Being caught engaging in any such activities will result in disciplinary action either within the course or at the university level. A listing of University Regulations can be found at: <http://navigator.lakeheadu.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=21&chapterid=3506&loaduseredits=False>. The code of student behaviour and disciplinary procedures can be found at: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/policies/student-related/code-of-student-behaviour-and-disciplinary-procedures>.

The following rules shall govern the treatment of students who have been found guilty of attempting to obtain academic credit dishonestly:

- (a) The minimum penalty for a student found guilty of [plagiarism](#), or of cheating on any part of a course will be a zero for the work concerned.
- (b) A student found guilty of cheating on a formal examination or a test, or of serious or repeated [plagiarism](#), or of unofficially obtaining a copy of an examination paper before the examination is scheduled to be written, will receive zero for the course and may be expelled from the University.

Students disciplined under the Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures may appeal their case through the Judicial Panel.

Disability Accommodation

If you have a disability that requires accommodations, I strongly encourage you to make use of those accommodations. I am here to assist you, but need your help in ensuring I accommodate you properly. More generally, Lakehead is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities. Student Accessibility Services (SAS) coordinate services and facilitates reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Academic accommodations are provided on the basis of documentation of a disability. Additional information is available at the following campus website: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/sas>

LAKEHEAD RESOURCES

If you find yourself having difficulty with the course material or any other difficulties in your student life, don't hesitate to ask for help! Come to me, or if it is about an issue beyond this class, please contact your academic advisors, or get help from any number of other support services on campus, including:

The Student Success Centre has many programs and support services in place to help you achieve your academic and personal goals while studying at Lakehead University. They provide academic support through tutoring services, career exploration, co-operative opportunities and leadership development. More information is available [here](https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-success-centre)<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-success-centre>.

The Lakehead Library provides access to resources, study rooms, and research support both online via chat and in person with more details available here <https://library.lakeheadu.ca/>.

Public Computer Labs are available on campus where you may write and/or print out your work. For more details go to <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/helpdesk/computer-labs>.

Student Life and Services offers health and wellness resources both on and off campus, as well as opportunities for involvement in health and wellness activities. More information is available here <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-services/or>.

Office of Human Rights and Equity. You have the right to an education that is free from any form of discrimination. A wide variety of resources are available here <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/human-rights-and-equity/resources>.