

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

POLI 2313/CRIM 2313/IND 2319: HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

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.

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, covenants, and conventions on human rights.
- d. Students will be able to see the application of human rights in the Canadian context.
- e. In the 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-visu-als. 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 Teaching Commons for technical assistance with D2L. They can be reached by email at teachingcommons@lakeheadu.ca

MARKING SCHEME:

Midterm Test **40% - available October 20 between 6:00 a.m.**
and 11.59 p.m. EST - 80 Minutes

Final Exam **40% - available December 11 between 6:00 a.m. and 11.59 p.m. EST - 100 Minutes**

Participation forums). 20% - posting comments (in Discussion

Discussion Forums

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

Thirteen discussion areas are set up for this course.

- a. Introduction is for introducing yourself and discussing any difficulties you may be having about a particular concept, for collaborating with peers, or for discussing just about anything you want to share with your fellow students.
- b. The other twelve 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. 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, not after every forum.

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.

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 80 minutes for Midterm Test and 100 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) (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 Chapter10.

**MID TERM TEST
minutes**

ONLINE

80

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 16	Module 16	"	Human Chapter
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	Module 22	Transitional "	Chapter 22
Week-13 Environment	Module23	The "	Chapter 23
FINAL EXAM:	ONLINE	100 minutes	