

The Politics of Human Rights

G53.3700001

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Course Description:

This course provides a broad introduction to the politics of human rights. It focuses on 1) the political history of the current international human rights regime; 2) the nature of contemporary human rights problems and the role that politics plays in generating them; and 3) the strategies that are currently being advocated to more effectively reduce the high level of human rights violations.

Course requirements:

- **Class Participation** (15%):
- **Short Papers on Readings** (20%)
- **Class Presentations** (25%): Students will make a presentation on their final paper (15%) and lead the discussion on a particular reading or a set of readings twice during the semester (5% each).
- **Research Paper** (40% of course grade): An original piece of research that draws from the topics covered in the course. It may be an extension of one of the research proposals. The paper should be 20-25 pages in length and is due at the end of the finals' week.

Required Texts:

Lauren, Paul Gordon. *The Evolution of International Human Rights*. University of Pennsylvania Press (second edition). 2003. ISBN 081221854X (paperback)

Barnett, Michael. *Eyewitness to Genocide*. Cornell University Press. 2003. ISBN 0801488672 (paperback)

Digital Coursepack: sold through the bookstore

Week 1. Introduction

Week 2. The Evolution of Human Rights

Lauren, Paul Gordon. 1998. *The Evolution of Human Rights: Visions Seen*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Recommended Readings:

Fraser, Arvonne S. 1999. "Becoming Human: The Origins and Development of Women's Human Rights." *Human Rights Quarterly* 21(4): 853-906.

Glendon, Mary Ann. 2001. *A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. New York: Random House.

Steiner, Henry J. and Philip Alston. 2000. *International Human Rights in the Context: Law, Politics, Morals*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Week 3. Why Do States Abuse Human Rights?

Poe, Steven C. 2004. "The Decision to Repress: An Integrative Theoretical Approach to Research on Human Rights and Repression." In Sabine Carey and Steven Poe, eds. *Understanding Human Rights Violations: New Systematic Studies*, Ashgate Publishing.

Poe, Steven C., C. Neal Tate, and Linda Camp Keith. 1999. "Repression of the Human Right to Personal Integrity Revisited: A Global Cross-National Study Covering the Years 1976-1993." *International Studies Quarterly* 43(2): 291-313.

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce and George W. Downs. "Strategic Coordination, Public Goods, and Political Survival." Draft.

Recommended Readings:

Walker, Scott and Steven C. Poe. 2002. "Does Cultural Diversity Affect Countries' Respect for Human Rights?" *Human Rights Quarterly* 24(2): 237-263.

Davenport, Christian. 1995. "Multi-Dimensional Threat Perception and State Repression: An Inquiry into Why States Apply Negative Sanction." *American Journal of Political Science* 39(3): 683-713.

Week 4. Constitutions and Human Rights

Weingast, Barry R. 2005 "The Constitutional Dilemma of Economic Liberty." *Journal of Economic Perspective*. 19(3):89-108.

Davenport, Christian. 1996. "Constitutional Promises' and Repressive Reality: A Cross-National Time-Series Investigation of Why Political and Civil Liberties Are Suppressed." *Journal of Politics* 58(3): 627-654.

Keith, Linda Camp. 2002. "Constitutional Provisions for Individual Human Rights (1977-1996): Are They More than Mere 'Window Dressing?'" *Political Research Quarterly* 55(1): 111-143.

Recommended Readings:

Cross, Frank. 1999. "The Relevance of Law in Human Rights Protection." *International Review of Law and Economics* 19: 87-98.

Heyns, Cristof and Frans Viljoen. 2001. "The Impact of the United Nations Human Rights Treaties on the Domestic Level." *Human Rights Quarterly* 23 (3):553-588

Perenbloom, Randall. 2005. "Human Rights and Rule of Law: What's the Relationship?" *Georgetown Journal of International Law* 36:

Week 5. Elections, Democracy, Democratization and Human Rights

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, Feryal Cherif, George Downs and Alastair Smith. 2005. "Thinking Inside the Box: A Closer Look at Democracy and Human Rights." *International Studies Quarterly* 49(3): 439-458.

Davenport, Christian. 1998. "Liberalizing Event or Lethal Episode? An Empirical Assessment of How National Elections Affect the Suppression of Political and Civil Liberties." *Social Science Quarterly* 79(2): 321-340.

Davenport, Christian. 2004. "The Promise of Democratic Pacification: An Empirical Assessment." *International Studies Quarterly* 48(3): 539-560.

Recommended Readings:

Davenport, Christian. 1997. "From Ballots to Bullets: An Empirical Assessment of How National Elections Influence State Uses of Political Repression." *Electoral Studies* 16(4): 517-540.

Davenport, Christian. 1999. "Human Rights and the Democratic Proposition." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 43(1): 92-116.

Davenport, Christian and David A. Armstrong, II. 2004. "Democracy and Violation of Human Rights: A Statistical Analysis from 1976 to 1996." *American Journal of Political Science* 48(3): 538-560.

Regan, Patrick and Errol Henderson. 2002. "Democracy, Threats and Political Repression in Developing Countries: Are Democracies Internally Less Violent?" *Third World Quarterly* 23(1): 119-136.

Weeks 6. The Politics of Globalization and Trade and Their Impact on Human Rights

Brysk, Alison. 2005. *Human Rights and Private Wrongs: Constructing Global Civil Society*. New York: Routledge, Introduction, Chapter in the middle on child's rights, and Conclusion.

Cingranelli, David L. 2002. "Democratization, Economic Globalization, and Worker's Rights." In Edward A. McMahon and Thomas A. P. Sinclairs, eds. *Democratic Institutional Performance: Research and A Policy Perspectives*. Westport: Praeger Press.

Hafner-Burton, Emilie. 2005. "Trading Human Rights: How Preferential Trade Agreements Influence Government Repression." *International Organization* 59(3): 593-629.

Richards, David, Ronald Gelleny and David Sacko. 2001. "Money with a Mean Streak? Foreign Economic Penetration and Government Respect for Human Rights in Developing Countries." *International Studies Quarterly* 45 (2): 219-239.

Recommended Readings:

Apodaca, Clair. 2001. "Global Economic Patterns and Personal Integrity Rights after the Cold War." *International Studies Quarterly*. 45: 587-602.

Weeks 7 and 8. Why Do States Adopt Human Rights Treaties? Do They Make a Difference

Goldsmith, Jack L. and Eric A. Posner. 2005. *The Limits of International Law*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Human Rights Chapter.

Hathaway, Oona. 2002. "Do Human Rights Treaties Matter?" *The Yale Law Journal* 111:1935-2042.

Koh, Harold H. 1999. "How Is International Human Rights Law Enforced?" *Indiana Law Journal* 74(4): 1397-1417.

Moravcsik, Andrew. 2000. "The Origins of Human Rights Regimes: Democratic Delegation in Postwar Europe." *International Organization* 54(2): 217-252.

Simmons, Beth. In Progress. *International Human Rights: Law, Politics and Accountability*. Chapters 3, 4, and 5.

Woptika, Christine Min and Francisco O. Ramirez. "World Society and Human Rights: An Event History Analysis of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women." School of Education, Stanford University.

Recommended Readings:

Goodman, Ryan and Derek Jinks. 2003. "Measuring the Effect of Human Rights Treaties." *European Journal of International Law* 14(1): 171-183.

Hathaway, Oona. 2003. "Testing Conventional Wisdom." *European Journal of International Law* 14(1): 185-200.

Hathaway, Oona. 2003. "The Cost of Commitment." *Stanford Law Review* 55: 1821-1862.

Keith, Linda Camp. 1999. "The United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Does It Make a Difference in Human Rights Behavior?" *Journal of Peace Research* 36(1): 95-118.

Lutz, Ellen L. and Kathryn Sikkink. 2000. "International Human Rights Law and Practice in Latin America." *International Organization* 54(3): 633-659.

Weeks 9 and 10. Transnationalism: Institutions, Norms and Networks

Goodman, Ryan and Derek Jinks. 2004. "How to Influence States: Socialization and International Law." *Duke Law Journal* 54: 621-.

Joachim, Jutta. 2003. "Framing Issues and Seizing Opportunities: The UN, NGOs and Women's Rights." *International Studies Quarterly* 47(2): 247-74.

Kaufmann, Chaim and Robert A. Pape. 1999. "Explaining Costly Moral Action: Britain's Sixty Year Campaign Against the Slave Trade." *International Organization* 53(3): 631-668.

Risse, Thomas, Stephen C. Ropp and Kathryn Sikkink. 1999. *The Power of Human Rights, International Norms and Domestic Change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Introduction and Conclusion.

Smith, Jackie. 1997. "Social Movements and World Politics: A Theoretical Framework." In Jackie Smith, Charles Chatfield, and Ron Pagnucco, eds., *Transnational Social Movements and Global Politics*. Syracuse: Syracuse Press.

Recommended Readings:

Berkovitch, Nitza. 1999. *From Motherhood to Citizenship: Women's Rights and International Organizations*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Sikkink, Kathryn. 1993. "Human Rights, Principled Issue-Network, and Sovereignty in Latin America." *International Organization* 47(3): 411-441.

Landman, Todd. 2003. Norms and Rights: A Non-Recursive Model of Human Rights Protection." Paper presented at the 2003 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 29-31 August 2003.

FYI. Measures and Measurement Issues in Human Rights

Gibney, Mark and Matthew Dalton. 1996. "The Political Terror Scale." In David Cingranelli, ed. *Human Rights and Developing Countries*. Greenwich: JAI Press.

Landman, Todd. 2004. "Measuring Human Rights: Principle, Practice, Policy." *Human Rights Quarterly* 26: 906-931.

Lopez, George and Michael Stohl. 1992. "Problems of Concept and Measurement." In Thomas B. Jabine and Richard P. Claude, eds. *Human Rights and Statistics: Getting the Record Straight*.

McCormick, James M. and Neil J. Mitchell. 1997. "Human Rights Violations, Umbrella Concepts, and Empirical Analysis." *World Politics* 49(4): 510-525.

Recommended Readings:

Bollen, Kenneth. 1992. Political Rights and Political Liberties in Nations: An Evaluation of Human Rights Measures, 1950 to 1984." In Thomas B. Jabine and Richard P. Claude, eds. *Human Rights and Statistics: Getting the Record Straight*.

Cingranelli, David L. and David L. Richards. 1999. "Measuring the Level, Pattern, and Sequence of Government Respect for Physical Integrity Rights." *International Studies Quarterly* 43(2): 407-417.

Green, Maria. 2001. "What We Talk About When We Talk About Indicators: Current Approaches to Human Rights Measurement." *Human Rights Quarterly* 23:1062-1097.