INTL 370: International Human Rights [WEB]
4 credits; Summer 2018
Instructor: Dr. Angela Montague
Email: angelam@uoregon.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The concept and practice of international human rights encompasses more than simply defining and enforcing what is ‘right.’ Like many social phenomena, human rights have myriad dimensions and perspectives that delve into issues of philosophy, politics, imperialism, identity, justice, power, and much more. Although genocide is the most blatant offense perpetrated by humans against humans, the study of human rights also covers other important topic areas. This course examines diverse perspectives on the concept, practice and implementation of human rights and human rights regimes. We look at topics covered in various Conventions, especially those which address human rights abuses, as well as critique the universal approach to human rights in a diverse world. We will look at the history of human rights, different human rights regimes, categories of people covered by universal human rights conventions, human rights abuses, and attempts at implementing human rights.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course is designed to facilitate your learning and practice of essential knowledge and skills for engaging critical social inquiry in the field of international human rights. By the end of the course, you will be able to:

1. Describe the ways in which human rights and state sovereignty are in conflict;
2. Analyze cases of human rights issues through various theoretical perspectives;
3. Identify and locate structures of vulnerability within global social/economic structures;
4. Construct an argument that either criticizes or supports implementing a regime of universal human rights;
5. Critically evaluate current world events as they apply to class concepts;
6. Use your own voice to contribute meaningful ideas to public discourse about human rights

Communication: I am here to facilitate your learning and to provide you with guidance, insight, and regular feedback.

- Please put ‘INTL 370’ in the subject line for any email correspondence so that it doesn’t get lost. I will always attempt to get back to you within 24 hours or less.
- Please check your email frequently as I will use it and the Canvas announcements section for many class-related announcements.
- The syllabus, course announcements, assignments, instructions, notes and images, readings, website links, grades and scores and contact information will be posted on Canvas. Check the site on a regular basis.

All other readings will be made available as PDFs or URL links on Canvas
**Online course structure:** The entire course will be housed on Canvas. Readings that are not in the textbook will be made available via the Modules link with a weekly page overview. You will receive a weekly announcement that reminds you of what you are to complete each week. The syllabus will be followed closely, unless otherwise announced. **Please read the syllabus carefully.** This is a non-traditional course in that there is no face-to-face interaction with the instructor. Some have a tough time being motivated to complete online courses because much of the work is dependent on the self-discipline of the student. As such, **you have the responsibility of learning the course materials yourself by keeping up** with the assigned readings, watching films, and completing thoughtful and analytic written assignments. In addition, you will need to have access to high-speed Internet in order to take timed quizzes and tests and also to watch assigned video clips.

**NOTE:** This is a 4-credit course, which would entail approximately 120 hours of activities in which students are actively engaged in learning over the course of the term. Because it is condensed into just 4-weeks, that means that you could be required to devote up to 30 hours/week to course material. There are an average of 100 pages of reading per week in addition to films and/or lectures. There are weekly assignments due, and the final week has a quiz and a term report due. DO NOT FALL BEHIND!

**GRADING AND REQUIREMENTS**

**Grade Breakdown:** Course grades will be determined by quality of work in the following:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Category</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Weekly by Thursdays and Sundays.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Mon. July 1, 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Media Report</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Mon. July 8, 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Mon. July 15, 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Sun. July 21, 11:59 p.m.</td>
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**Discussion Participation:** 20%. Participation is a requirement for this course, and the Canvas Discussion Board will be used for online discussion about class topics. Everyone will post an introduction by the end of week one on the discussion board titled “Introductions.” Each week you will also post on the discussion board and respond to two other classmates’ posts. Using each chapter’s discussion questions, choose one per week that you want to discuss. You then will need to then respond to two other students’ posts in an engaging manner. Your post is due by Thursday of each week by 11:59 PM deadline and your responses are due by Sunday 11:59 p.m. See Canvas for more details.

**Unit Exams (3):** These exams will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and essay. The essay questions will be based on the discussion questions at the end of the chapters. The exams will have about 15-20 multiple choice and 3-4 essay questions.

**Media Report:** For this you will need to submit a one-two page, double-spaced summary and commentary on a significant human rights issue, mention of which has appeared in a major news source (e.g. the BBC, New York Times, Al Jazeera). You will use this as the basis for your Term Report.
Term Report: A brief 4-5 page Term Report on a selected topic will be due at the end of the semester. You will need to do brief research on your chosen topic and include 5 credible sources that you reference in your paper. APA style format.

Method of Evaluation: All work will be assessed using the following standards:
- **A** indicates thorough, original, insightful and well-presented work (90% or higher of possible points)
- **B** meets general expectations for 300-level work, is complete and well-presented (80-89%)
- **C** indicates acceptable but sub-par work in comparison to general expectations and peer performance (70-79%)
- **D** does not meet minimum standards and expectations, requires re-submission for credit if time allows (60-69%)

Course Policies
The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center in 155 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu
### COURSE SCHEDULE

| Week 1 | Topic 1 | (June 24-June 30): **Human Rights in Theory and Law**  
**The Contested Meaning of Human Rights** |
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<td><strong>Assignments:</strong></td>
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1. Post an introduction on the Canvas Discussion Board no later than Sunday June 30 @ 11:59 p.m.  
2. Post a Question to the Discussion Board by Thursday at 11:59 p.m.  
3. Reply to TWO classmates’ posts by Sunday  
4. Take Quiz #1, due Monday 7/1 at 11:59 p.m.  
**Readings:** | |  
- DeLaet Introduction pp. 1-10  
- DeLaet Chapter 1 pp. 11-25 |
| **Topic 2** | **The Development of International Human Rights Law** |  
**Readings:** | |  
- DeLaet Chapter 2 pp. 26-45  
**Watch:** “History of Human Rights” (link on Canvas) |
| **Topic 3** | Cultural Relativism and Human Rights |  
**Readings:** | |  
- American Anthropological Association (AAA) “Statement on Human Rights” (1947) (PDF) |
| **Topic 4** | Are **Human Rights Universal?** |  
**Readings:** | |  
- DeLaet Chapter 3 pp. 46-62  
- Abu-Lughod “Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?” (PDF)  
- Imoh “Rites vs rights: Female genital cutting at the crossroads of local values and global norms” (PDF)  
**View:** Dr. Montague’s Lecture on “Female Genital Cutting” |
**Week 2** (July 1-7): **Human Rights in Practice**

**Topic 5:** Civil and Political Rights in a World of Sovereign States

**Assignments:**
1. Post a Question to the Discussion Board by Thursday at 11:59 p.m.
2. Reply to TWO classmates’ posts by Sunday

**Readings:**
- DeLaet Chapter 4 pp 63-78

**Topic 6:** Rights of Refugees

**Readings:**
- UNHCR “Protecting Refugees: questions and answers”
- Other readings TBA

**Topic 7:** Collective Rights in a World of Sovereign States

**Readings:**
- DeLaet Chapter 5 pp. 79-100
- United Nations “Convention on Genocide”
- **Watch:** Dr. Montague’s lecture “Genocide”

**Topic 8:** Rights of Indigenous Groups

**Readings:**
- OAS “Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”

**Week 3** (July 8-14): **Human Rights in Practice (continued)**

**Topic 9:** Economic and Social Rights in a World of Sovereign States

**Assignments:**
1. Post a Question to the Discussion Board by Thursday at 11:59 p.m.
2. Reply to TWO classmates’ posts by Sunday
3. Choose topic for Term Paper
4. Take Quiz #3, due Monday 7/15 at 11:59 p.m.

**Readings:**
- DeLaet Chapter 6 pp. 101-117
- Sen “Development as Freedom” excerpt (PDF)
- OHCHR “Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”
  [https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/MDG/Pages/The2030Agenda.aspx](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/MDG/Pages/The2030Agenda.aspx)
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<tr>
<th>Topic 10</th>
<th>Climate Change and Human Rights</th>
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| • UN Statement on Climate Change and Human Rights [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/HRAndClimateChange/Pages/HRClimateChangeIndex.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/HRAndClimateChange/Pages/HRClimateChangeIndex.aspx)  

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<th>Topic 11</th>
<th>Gender Equality and Human Rights</th>
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<td>Readings:</td>
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| • De Laet Chapter 7 pp. 118-132  
• The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (*CEDAW*) (link on Canvas) |
| Watch: “I Came to Testify” |

| Week 4 | July 15-21: Human Rights and the Quest for Justice |
| Topic 12 | Promoting Human Rights from the Top Down |
| Assignments: |
| 1. Post a Question to the Discussion Board by Thursday at 11:59 p.m.  
2. Reply to TWO classmates’ posts by Sunday  
3. Term Paper due Sunday 7/21  
4. Take Quiz #3, due Sunday 7/21 at 11:59 p.m. |
| Readings: |
| • De Laet Chapter 8 pp. 133-158 |

| Topic 13 | Punitive Justice and Human Rights |
| Readings: |
| • DeLaet Chapter 9 pp. 159-187 |

| Topic 14 | Restorative Justice and Human Rights |
| Readings: |
| • DeLaet Chapter 10 pp. 188-204 |

| Topic 15 | Promoting Human Rights from the Bottom Up |
| Readings: |
| • DeLaet Chapter 11 pp. 205-219  
• DeLaet “Conclusions” pp. 220-223 |