Course Description

This course covers the history, theory, and practice of human rights from a global perspective. We will emphasize the normative context within which human rights discourses develop, followed by an explanation of how and why international institutions support (or inhibit) the protection of human rights in local contexts. The overriding goal of the course is for the students to begin to address three foundational questions:

1 - What are human rights, or, rather, what should they be?
2 - How do human rights function in today's world? (i.e. How do political and legal institutions, including NGOs, actually "do" human rights work?), and;
3 - Do human rights matter? (i.e. What are the practical possibilities and limitations informing the ability of the international human rights regime to achieve its stated goals?).

We will aim to get a sense of relevant, contemporary human rights issues through academic analysis, empirical evidence, and cultural inquiry. Students will develop a sense of the diverse perspectives on these issues internationally, while critically exploring the possibilities and contestations involved in human rights as a concept and as practice. This course will prepare students to study these issues in greater depth in their 400-level courses and graduate school. This course will also provide students with an opportunity to practice virtual collaboration as it will be necessary to successfully work and learn together via online methods.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Draw connections between the relevant historical and theoretical perspectives that inform the international human rights movement.
- Analyze the moral, political, economic, and cultural tensions inherent in international human rights practices in the 21st century.
• Evaluate, compare, and contrast the various political, legal, and development organizations that work to promote and protect human rights around the world.
• Begin assessing the relative success or failure of specific human rights mechanisms.
• Successfully collaborate via virtual methods and online technology

**Learning Goals**

1. **Critical thinking:**
   - Use analytical tools to understand and examine human rights in global perspective, and critically analyze the complex interrelationships that exist among nations and between peoples/communities in the interdependent modern world.
   - Employ methods of interdisciplinary social science research: use library databases to find relevant literature, evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of academic arguments, use evidence to support arguments.
   - Adapt and apply a critical and well-grounded understanding of multiple worldviews and perspectives, experiences, power structures, and ethical and cultural positions in relation to contemporary global problems.

2. **Content knowledge:**
   - Describe, explain and apply basic knowledge of the historic and contemporary role and effects of different international actors in the global system and how gender relates to development (e.g., multilateral and bilateral organizations, development agencies, nation-states, philanthropic and non-governmental organizations).
   - Describe, explain and apply basic knowledge of international human rights within their Global Studies professional concentration area that maps onto a real-world career objective.

3. **Communication:**
   - Convey complex information and ideas through public speaking and written English that are clear, robust, carefully edited, well organized, and stylistically engaging and accessible.
   - Use knowledge and skills to develop and advocate for informed, appropriate action to solve complex problems in the human and natural worlds.

**Required Materials**

There is one required textbook which is available via the UO Libraries as an e-textbook (free for UO students):

This e-textbook is available free for UO students - you may have to login to access the book or sign in using a VPN. Please contact Information Technology (IT) Services if you are having trouble accessing the book.

I have chosen to use all open access materials so that you, as students, do not have to purchase additional course books and materials. I hope this helps support making the costs of your education more affordable this term.

Please keep in mind that there are a number of required readings for the class that will be available online on our course Canvas site. Each week of the course has its own module in Canvas; please complete all tasks in each module for the week assigned in order to stay on track! As always, please let me know if you have any questions.

**Recommended Materials:**


All other required readings will be posted on our class site on Canvas.

**Accessing course materials:**

There is a Canvas site available for this class at https://canvas.uoregon.edu/ -- you will need your UO email and password to access the site. The syllabus, selected readings, and general information on the class are and will be posted there throughout the term. Please familiarize yourself with the site if you have not already.

Please note that the reading list may change throughout the term. Any changes will be announced in class and you are responsible for changes in the material. Please check your UO registered email account regularly for any notices regarding the class.

**Course Rhythm/Schedule and Evaluation**

The University will continue to issue more details about our situation and our syllabus and course activities may need to be adjusted after the start of the term. I will be mindful of the many impacts the unfolding events related to COVID-19 and a turbulent social and political climate may be having on you. During this unusual time, if you are not able to do an assignment, please communicate with me and we will strive to create an alternative plan to complete required coursework.
Barring a specific need for adjustment, and unless otherwise noted, work is always due in this course Sundays at 11:59pm—I hope this regular deadline simplifies what you need to keep in mind about the routine of the course.

If you foresee challenges to fulfilling any of the requirements please speak to me privately as soon as possible (ybraun@uoregon.edu). I understand this is an exceptional time we are in, so please let me know if you have any obstacles to access or full participation in the course. I want to support you to be successful in this course!

Course Rhythm and Schedule

Please use Canvas as your guide for readings and assignments. Each week has its own module and you should complete each task in the module in order to stay on track throughout the term. Please note readings and activities may change throughout the term and you are responsible for keeping up to date with these changes.

In general, each week will have a consistent rhythm (except for week 10):

Check the module for each week of the class. Complete all tasks in the module for the week.

Reading and assignment activities will be due by Sunday at 11:59 PM each week unless otherwise announced.

For more information about discussion board posting please see Discussion Board Guidelines and Assignments.

Evaluation

Participation is essential in any class, even online courses. Active participation will be demonstrated by engagement in discussion activities. Reading worksheets will be distributed for students to work through important concepts and ideas in the readings. These will be graded for completion, not accuracy of content, and will be worth 5% of your grade.

Students will also engage the discussion board forum on Canvas, through guided posts in which students will offer comments and questions regarding the assigned material and then respond to other students’ posts. See the details above and the requirements posted in the Discussion Board Guidelines and Assignments. Discussion activities will count towards 20% of your grade.

There will be a midterm exam that will count towards 35% of your grade.

Each student will work with the instructor to choose a research project related to the course material. The research project will require a proposal to be approved by the instructor. The
research project will include development of a short presentation on the research project in the form of powerpoint slides/prezi to be shared on Canvas with other students in the class in week 10, and a final essay on the research project topic. The proposal is worth 5%, the presentation worth 15%, and the final paper worth 20% of your final grade.

Discussion Activities: 20%

Midterm: 35%

Reading Worksheets: 5%

Research Project Proposal: 5%

Research Project presentation post (powerpoint/prezi format): 15%

Final Essay: 20%

Grading Rubric

I will assign letter grades roughly corresponding to the table below. However, in some cases, I may curve course grades, in order to more fairly distribute letter grades. Letter grades will always be curved in the students’ favor, e.g. a “92” might be an A- or an A, but not a B+; similarly, a 70 might be a C- or C, but never a D+.

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Discussion Board Guidelines and Assignments

Guidelines and Best Practices for Communication

We will communicate primarily through email and discussion boards so we all will benefit from thoughtful communication. I have created an "Internet Cafe: Class Questions and Answers" discussion board forum for chat, socializing, and for general questions that the community might answer. Please note this board will not be private. When privacy is needed or preferred, please email your question or your communication to me via email at ybraun@uoregon.edu.

General Guidelines for Remote Class Participation

Taking an online course means each of you, as a communicator, need to overcome the lack of nonverbals in communication. We can’t see you smile when you write something you think is funny! When taking a course online, it is important to remember several points of etiquette that will smooth communication between students and the instructor.

1. **Participate and Contribute**: Students are expected to participate by sharing ideas and contributing to the collective learning environment. This entails preparing, following instructions, and engaging respectfully and thoughtfully with others. More specific participation guidelines and criteria for contributions will be provided for each specific activity.

2. **Use Proper Netiquette**: Please use good “net etiquette”: identify yourself with your real name, write or speak in the first person, and use a subject line that clearly relates to your contribution. Good netiquette also means using humor or sarcasm carefully, remembering that non-verbal cues (such as facial expressions) are not always possible or clear in a remote context. In addition, your language should be free of profanity, appropriate for an academic context, and exhibit interest in and courtesy for others’ contributions. Certain breaches of netiquette can be considered disruptive behavior.

3. **Interact Professionally**: Our learning environment provides an opportunity to practice being professional and rigorous in our contributions. As much as possible, use correct spelling, grammar, and style for academic and professional work. Use discussions and activities as opportunities to practice the kind and quality of work expected for assignments. Moreover, seize the chance to learn from others and develop your interpersonal skills, such as mindful listening and awareness of one’s own tendencies (e.g. Do I contribute too much? Too little?).

4. **Expect and Respect Diversity**: All classes at the University of Oregon welcome and respect diverse experiences, perspectives, and identities. What is not welcome are behaviors or contributions that undermine, demean, or marginalize others based on race, ethnicity, gender, sex, age, sexual orientation, religion, ability, or socioeconomic status. We will value differences and communicate disagreements with respect. We may establish more specific guidelines and protocols to ensure inclusion and equity for all members of our learning community.
5. **Help Everyone Learn**: Our goal is to learn together by learning from one another. As we move forward learning during this challenging time, it is important that we work together and build on our strengths. Not everyone is savvy in remote learning, including your instructor, and this means we need to be patient with each other, identify ways we can assist others, and be open-minded to receiving help and advice from others. No one should hesitate to contact me to ask for assistance or offer suggestions that might help us learn better.

**Specific guidelines for best practices using Canvas Discussion:**

1. Use subject lines that clearly communicate the content of your post
2. Write clearly and concisely and be aware that humor or sarcasm often doesn’t always translate in an online environment.
3. Be supportive and considerate when replying to others’ posts. This means avoiding use of jargon or inappropriate language, and it means disagreeing with respect and providing clear rationale or evidence to support your different view.
4. Keep focused on the topic and reference readings and other class materials to support your points (as applicable).
5. Try to use correct spelling and grammar and proofread your submissions. After submitting, use the edit feature to make corrections and resubmit (don’t create a new or duplicate post that corrects your error).
6. Contribute and interact often!

**General Guidelines for Discussion Board Activity (Assignments)**

1. What is a new post: you are replying to a prompt from me in the discussion thread for the first time (first post).

2. What is a reply: you are replying to two other classmates' posts on a previous thread. This will generally be in reply to classmates' initial posts.

3. A new post should be between 200-250 words and address the prompt from the instructor. The tone should be professional and conversational. Pose a question in your post.

4. A reply to a post from a classmate should be between 100 and 150 words and engage the ideas or questions in your classmate's post. Continue the conversation in a forward, depersonalized way. You may disagree, critique, or celebrate your classmate's post, but keep your tone professional, curious, thoughtful, and empathetic.
5. You might want to keep a running record of your discussion board posts by copying and pasting your posts and replies to posts into one separate word document.

Readings and Class Schedule:
Please note this may change throughout the term and you are responsible for keeping up to date with these changes.

Week One: The Concept of Rights

Introduction to course

Donnelly, Introduction (pp. 1-3) and Ch. 1: “The Concept of Rights” (pp. 7-23)

Reading Worksheet #1
Discussion Activity #1

Week Two: Human Rights, Universalism, and Cultural Relativism

Donnelly, Ch. 5: “A Brief History of Human Rights” (pp. 75-92)

Donnelly, Ch. 6: “The Relative Universality of Human Rights” (pp. 93-106)

Donnelly, Ch. 7: “Universality in a World of Particularities” (pp. 106-118)

Reading Worksheet #2
Discussion Activity #2

Week Three: Universal Declaration of Human Rights; Human Rights Regimes

Donnelly Ch. 2: “The Universal Declaration Model” (pp. 24-39)

Donnelly Ch. 3: “Economic Rights and Group Rights” (pp. 40-54)

Donnelly Ch. 4: “Equal Concern and Respect” (pp. 55-65)

Ishay - "UDHR" pp. 493 – 497

Reading Worksheet #3
Discussion Activity #3


Week Four: International Human Rights Regimes and Power

Donnelly, Ch. 11: “International Human Rights Regimes” (pp. 161-196)

Recommended:
Schaffer and Smith, Introduction and Ch. 1 (pp.1-34) and Ch.2 (pp.35-52)

Reading Worksheet #4
Discussion Activity#4

Week Five: Human Rights in National Governance and Foreign Policy

Donnelly, Ch. 12: “Human Rights and Foreign Policy” (pp. 197-213)

Recommended:
Schaffer and Smith, Ch.3, 4 (pp. 53-122)

Midterm Exam

Week Six: Human Rights, Democracy, and Development

Donnelly: Ch. 11 “Human Rights, Democracy, and Development” (pp. 185-203)

Ishay - "Human Rights and Globalization" (Thomas Friedman v. Ignacio Ramonet, pp. 333-337)
Ishay - "Labor and Development" (Milton Friedman, Charles Tilly, and Amartya Sen - 339-352; 356-359)

• Explore this website for additional background on development, open markets, workers’ rights, and advocacy campaigns: http://www.lifeanddebt.org/links.html

Reading Worksheet #5
Discussion Activity#5

Week Seven: Human Rights, Development and Globalization

Donnelly, Ch. 14: “The West and Economic and Social Rights” (pp. 235-252)


Recommended:
Schaffer and Smith, Ch. 6 and 7 (pp. 153-221)

- Explore this website for additional background on the denim industry and your favorite brands: http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/chinablue/film.html

Reading Worksheet #6
Discussion Activity#6
Project Proposal Due

**Week Eight: Humanitarian Intervention and Genocide**

Donnelly, Ch. 15: “Humanitarian Intervention against Genocide” (pp. 254-271)

**Week Nine: Indigenous Rights; Environmental Justice**

Schaffer and Smith, Conclusion (pp. 223-235)

Article from Human Rights Watch (3 pgs)

Ishay - "The Environment and Human Rights" - 360-372
Selections from Global Backlash (Robin Brad ed): Ch. 4 "Challenging Corporate Conduct" (pgs. 188-196, 224-235) & Ch. 5 "Rolling Back Globalization" (243-261, 273-281)

Materials from Amazon Watch

**Week Ten: Student Research Project Presentations**

Student Presentations on Research Projects (posted on Canvas site)

**Final Papers due finals week TBA.**
Academic Honesty and Citing Sources

All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course.

The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented when using someone else's ideas or words.

**Why Cite Your Sources? (from UO Libraries)**

1. **Professional honesty** and courtesy: writers have an obligation to indicate when they have used someone else's ideas or words.
2. **Citing sources strengthens the authority of your work.** It demonstrates that you have considered others' opinions and ideas in forming your own.
3. Accurate citations **help others locate the materials you used** in your research.
4. **To avoid being accused of plagiarism.**
5. To uphold the University of **Oregon's Student Conduct and Community Standards.**

For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the Schedule of Classes published quarterly. Violations will be taken seriously and are noted on student disciplinary records. Additionally, the following specific requirements will be expected in this class: all assignments should include references and citations, if appropriate, and should preferably be presented in MLA, ASA or APA format. Please see the “Citation Guides and support…” resources on the library website. Students committing academic dishonesty will receive a grade of ‘F’ in this course and UO Dean of Students will be notified.

**Citation Guides and support:**

[http://library.uoregon.edu/guides/citing/index.html](http://library.uoregon.edu/guides/citing/index.html)

**Definition of plagiarism and tips for how to avoid it:**

[http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/](http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/)

**Outcomes and consequences of academic dishonesty at UO:**

[http://uodos.uoregon.edu/Student-Conduct-and-Community-Standards](http://uodos.uoregon.edu/Student-Conduct-and-Community-Standards)

**Campus Resources and Technology Support (including Canvas)**

Here are a few resources that may be of use to you or someone you know. Below you will find resources on help with Canvas and technology, accessible education resources, and counseling, health, and sexual violence support available on campus and in the Eugene/Springfield community.
Canvas and/or Technology Support:

If you have questions about accessing and using Canvas, visit the Canvas support page. Canvas and Technology Support also is available by phone or live chat:
Monday–Sunday | 6 a.m.–12 a.m.
541-346-4357 | livehelp.uoregon.edu.

If you face Internet access challenges: computer labs are open for students at the Eugene campus. Some companies are offering free access during this challenging time. To learn more about options visit Information Services’ web page on going remote.

Accessible Education:

The University of Oregon is striving to make all education accessible and inclusive. If any student is having difficulty meeting the demands of the course for whatever reason please see me as soon as possible – it is always better to talk to me before you get too far behind. I want to help each one of you succeed in this class. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center at 541-346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu

Here are some additional resources that you might find useful:

On Campus

University Teaching and Learning Center (541) 346-3226
University Counseling and Testing Center (541) 346-3227 [24hr crisis line]
Women’s Center (541) 346-4095
Ombuds Office (541) 346-6400

Community (off-campus)

White Bird Clinic (24 hour crisis) 541-687-4000
Sexual Assault Support Services Crisis Line (SASS) 541-343-7277
Womenspace Help Line 541-485-6513

Prohibited Discrimination and Harassment Reporting
Any student who has experienced sexual assault, relationship violence, sex or gender-based bullying, stalking, and/or sexual harassment may seek resources and help at safe.uoregon.edu. To
get help by phone, a student can also call either the UO’s 24-hour hotline at 541-346-SAFE [7244], or the non-confidential Title IX Coordinator/OICRC at 541-346-3123.

Students experiencing any other form of prohibited discrimination or harassment can find information and resources at investigations.uoregon.edu, or contact the non-confidential Office of Investigations and Civil Rights Compliance at 541-346-3123 or the Dean of Students Office at 541-346-3216 for help. As UO policy has different reporting requirements based on the nature of the reported harassment or discrimination, additional information about reporting requirements for discrimination or harassment unrelated to sexual assault, relationship violence, sex or gender based bullying, stalking, and/or sexual harassment is available in the Employee Responsibilities section, of the Office of Investigations and Civil Rights Compliance website.

**Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse**

UO employees, including faculty, staff, and GEs, are mandatory reporters of child abuse. This statement is to advise you that your disclosure of information about child abuse to a UO employee may trigger the UO employee’s duty to report that information to the designated authorities. Please refer to the following link for detailed information about mandatory reporting: Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect.

The instructor of this class, as a Designated Reporter, will direct students who disclose sexual harassment or sexual violence to resources that can help and has the responsibility to report the information shared with them to the university administration. The instructor of this class is required to report all other forms of prohibited discrimination or harassment to the university administration.

**Basic Needs and Food Security Resources**

**Basic Needs**

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students Office (346-3216, 164 Oregon Hall) for support.

This UO webpage includes resources for food, housing, healthcare, childcare, transportation, technology, finances, and legal support: https://blogs.uoregon.edu/basicneeds/food/.

**Feed the Flock – Services for Students Facing Food Insecurity**

The following is a list of services and programs that offer free food, meals, and support for accessing resources. Their availability and operation remain fluid and subject to change without notice. We will do everything we can to ensure that we are communicating as quickly as possible. We are working to shift our resources and efforts to ensure that students facing food
insecurity have multiple avenues of support. Program descriptions can be found out at: foodsecurity.uoregon.edu.

The Student Sustainability Center (@uo_ssc) will try to aggregate changes and information for all programs via facebook and Instagram. For food security specific resources, follow @feedtheflockuo. Please follow for the most up to date information regarding program changes.

- **ECM Student Food Pantry** – Open 4-6pm Wednesdays and Thursdays. 710 E. 17th Ave. Eugene, OR 97401. Check the Student Food Pantry Facebook page for updates including the possible addition of Saturday hours.

- **Produce Drops** – Free, fresh produce for students every Tuesday of the month from 3-5pm during the academic term (ie, not during Winter Break). Produce Drops take place in the EMU amphitheater rain or shine.

- **SNAP Enrollment help** – The Student Sustainability Center and the Duck Nest are working to ensure continuity in SNAP enrollment help. SNAP enrollment drop-in hours with the Duck Nest are posted on the Duck Nest Instagram (@uo_ducknest). The SSC also has SNAP drop-in hours which are updated on their Instagram (@feedtheflockuo). Please follow the Duck Nest and the Student Sustainability Center on social media to stay up to date.

- **Ducks Feeding Ducks** – Emergency meal dollars will remain available and can be used wherever Duck Bucks are accepted. To qualify, students must not have more than $4 in their Duck Bucks account and may not have used the program already this term. Additional funds can be received upon meeting with the Dean of Students office.

- **Hearth to Table Meals** – Free community meals and meal preparation with professional Chef. Hearth to Table will not hold meals during finals week or Winter Break. Starting week 1, kitchen teams will be reduced to 4 people. Student volunteers must sign up in advance by emailing sisterclare@welcometocentral.net. Communal meals will continue being served with increased distance between tables and only 4 seats at each table. Total number of diners will be capped at 32. Meals are served 6:30 pm to any student for free. Check Hearth & Table Facebook and Instagram for updates. Check the @feedtheflockuo Instagram for Hearth and Table updates.

- **Additional Community Resources via FOOD for Lane County:**
  - Free Produce and Groceries
    - Call FOOD for Lane County at 541.343.2822 to find out which location best serves you
  - Hot meals
    - The Dining Room – 270 W 8th Ave; passing out to-go meals; M-Th 12-12:45pm
    - St. Vincent de Paul Service Station – 450 B Hwy 99 N; (18+ only); limited number of guests in the building, outdoor respite space available
- Ebert Memorial Methodist Church – 532 C St. Springfield; passing out to-go meals Monday 8:30-10:30am & Tuesday/Thursday 8-11:15am
- Eugene Catholic Worker 5th and Washington; Weds-Sat 8:30am-9:30am; Tuesday-Thursday 4:30pm-5pm
- Free People! – Lamb’s Cottage at Skinner’s Butte, Eugene; Saturday Breakfast 9:15-9:45am, Saturday dinner
- Burrito Brigade – First Christian Church; 1143 Oak Street, Eugene; Sun 11am-2pm
- First Christian Church – 1166 Oak Street, Eugene; Sun 7:45am-9:15am
- Food Not Bombs – 10 E. Broadway, Eugene; Friday 3pm

*all times and dates are subject to change, please call Food for Lane County or check out their website for the most up to date information

- Food Pantry
  - Daily Bread – 89780 N. Game Farm Road, Eugene; 2nd and 4th Thursday, 2-6pm
- Double Up Food Bucks! – Receive up to $10 for fruits and vegetables with SNAP at farmer’s markets when you spend $10 on your SNAP card. Go to the token vendor, spend $10 and get an additional $10!