

# Political Science 4430: Global Human Rights

Spring 2017

M/W/F 2:00 to 2:50 pm  
Middlebush Hall, Room 212

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## Course Description

Why does the majority of the world's population live under inadequate protections for political, economic, social, and cultural rights? What makes a government use violence to coerce its citizens? Has the international community been able to improve respect for human rights, or have these practices simply become more clandestine? This course focuses on questions like these and the general social scientific study of human rights from the perspective of International Relations. We will cover scientific explanations for the rise of human rights movements, explanations for the onset and effects of human rights abuse, the success of international efforts to improve human rights, and the efforts of abusers to bypass the norms regarding human rights.

At the conclusion with this course you will be able to evaluate arguments about human rights and security in local and international contexts. In addition, you will have an understanding of the general state of social scientific approaches and understandings about human rights and be able to form and pursue your own questions on the topic.

## Readings

There are no assigned textbooks for the course. Instead, I will provide PDFs of book chapters, academic journal articles, and other sources for you to read. These will be provided on the course Canvas page.

I expect you to have completed the readings before the day they appear on the syllabus. Fully reading and understanding the material is essential to doing well on the exams and class discussions.

## Canvas

All communication for this course will be conducted via the course's Canvas site and University email. Any supplementary material, assignments, or changes to the course will be made available on this site and announced in class. Each student should ensure that they have access to these materials and are able to receive emails through their student account. Please note that I cannot accept material from, or respond to, student emails that come from a non-university address.

## Grading

Exam 1: (30%)

Exam 2: (30%)

Exam 3: (30%)

Participation: (10%)

## Exams

There will be exams held in class **February 20**, **April 7**, and **May 11**. The exams will consist of a mixture of multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay questions that will test your general understanding of social science research into human rights. I will provide a study guide prior to each exam, and will set aside time to review in class if the schedule permits. Exams will not be cumulative, but you will need to maintain your basic understanding of social science across exams.

## Participation

To receive full credit for the participation component of the grade, simply come to class after having completed the readings and offer your insights or questions during the class. Feel free to come see me in reference to your participation. Always feel free to state your opinion in a way that invites discussion. No outside knowledge of international relations, human rights, or history is required for class participation, and I welcome questions, comments, or examples from students as long as they are relevant to the discussion at hand. While I will not formally take attendance, being in class is mandatory. It is up to the student to provide quality comments or questions that pertain to the discussion at hand and indicate a grasp of the assigned readings.

## Make-up Exams

While I am more than happy to provide make-up exams for those that miss class, I cannot do so without a reason to excuse the absence. I will excuse absences on a case by case basis. Please note that any alternative or make-up exams may be different than those given to the rest of the class.

## Grading Scale

98-100: A+    88-89: B+    78-79: C+    68-69: D+    59 and below: F  
94-97: A        84-87: B        74-77: C        64-67: D  
90-93: A-       80-83: B-       70-73: C-       60-63: D-

## Information and University Policies

### Diversity Requirement

This course satisfies the university diversity requirement by examining the interactions between governments and targeted social groups that result in the violation of physical or political human rights. It will discuss how class, race, gender, or other differences influence a group's interaction with the state and the process through which governments harm human security for these groups.

The course will make use of detailed case studies of incidents of human rights abuse to highlight the general mechanisms discussed in class, including the way groups are targeted by the state institutions that carry out such abuses. In addition, it will provide discussion of general social scientific findings about the ways inequality are influence by and influence human rights abuse across country contexts.

### Academic Honesty

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

### Classroom Conduct

The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the departmental chair or divisional director; the director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities; the MU Equity Office, or [equity@missouri.edu](mailto:equity@missouri.edu).

All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor at the end of the course.

University of Missouri System Executive Order No. 38 lays out principles regarding the sanctity of classroom discussions at the university. The policy is described fully in Section 200.015 of the Collected Rules and Regulations. In this class, students may make audio or video recordings of course activity unless specifically prohibited by the faculty member. However, the redistribution of audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course is prohibited without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Students found to have violated this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of section 200.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.

## **Title IX and Mandatory Reporting**

University of Missouri policies and federal law prohibit all forms of sex discrimination in education, including discrimination on the basis of sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, and pregnancy. Discrimination includes any form of unequal treatment such as denial of opportunities, harassment, and violence. Sex-based violence includes rape, sexual assault, unwanted touching, stalking, dating/interpersonal violence, and sexual exploitation.

Because we care about our community, Mizzou employees are required to report all incidents of sex discrimination to the Title IX Office. The Title IX Office connects students with resources and helps them decide whether they wish to file a complaint of discrimination. To learn more, contact [title9@missouri.edu](mailto:title9@missouri.edu) or (573) 882-3880, or go to [www.title9.missouri.edu](http://www.title9.missouri.edu). Students may also contact the Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention (RSVP) Center, a confidential resource, for counseling and other support: [rsvp@missouri.edu](mailto:rsvp@missouri.edu) or (573) 882-6638, or go to [www.rsvp.missouri.edu](http://www.rsvp.missouri.edu). Both the Title IX Office and the RSVP Center can provide accommodations to students who need help with academics, housing, or other issues. The Title IX Office and the RSVP Center will respect your privacy.

## **Disability Services**

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.

If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the MU Disability Center, S5 Memorial Union, 573-882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations.

## **Copyright on Lecture and Course Materials**

Copyright 2017 (Christopher Patane) as to this syllabus and all lectures. During this course, students are prohibited from selling notes or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the express written permission of the instructor teaching this course.

# Class Outline

I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time. Changes will be announced in class and on the course Canvas site. It is the responsibility of the student to take note of any changes.

## Week 1, January 18 & 20: The Social Science of Human Rights

**Goals:** Basic overview of the course. How can we scientifically study political events, and how does this apply to the study of human rights?

### Readings:

1. Morgan, Rhiannon. 2009. "Chapter 1: Human Rights Research and the Social Sciences." in *Interpreting Human Rights: Social Science Perspectives*, Morgan, Rhiannon and Bryan Turner, eds. London: Routledge Press. pp. 1-15.
2. **Recommended:** Hafner-Burton, Emilie M. and James Ron. 2009. "Seeing Double: Human Rights Impact through Qualitative and Quantitative Eyes." *World Politics*. 61(2): 360-401.
3. **Recommended:** Hafner-Burton, Emilie M. 2014. "A Social Science of Human Rights." *Journal of Peace Research*. 51(2): 273-286.
4. **Recommended:** King, Gary, Robert Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1995. "The Importance of Research Design in Political Science." *American Political Science Review*. 89(2): 475-481.

## Week 2, January 23, 25, & 27: Rise of Human Rights and Universality

**Goals:** When did human rights become important? Are they universal?

### Readings:

1. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*
2. Weston, Burns. 1989. "Human Rights." In *Human Rights in the World Community*, Claude, Richard and Burns Weston, eds. Pages 12-30.
3. Howard, Rhoda. 1983. "The Full-Belly Thesis: Should Economic Rights Take Priority over Civil and Political Rights? Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa." *Human Rights Quarterly*. 15(4): 467-490.
4. Donnelly, Jack. 2007. "The Relative Universality of Human Rights." *Human Rights Quarterly*. 29(2): 281-306.

## Week 3, January 30, February 1 & 3: Why Violate Human Rights?

**Goals:** Why do states abuse human rights? Who gets abused?

### Readings:

1. Poe, Steven and C. Neal Tate. 1994. "Repression of Human Rights to Personal Integrity in the 1980s: A Global Analysis." *American Political Science Review* 88(4): 853-872.
2. Poe, Steven, C. Neil Tate, and Linda Camp Keith. 1999. "Repression of the Human Rights to Personal Integrity Revisited: A Global Cross-National Study Covering the Years 1976 to 1993." *International Studies Quarterly* 43(2): 291-313.
3. Davenport, Christian. 2007. "State Repression and Political Order." *Annual Reviews of Political Science*. 10:1, 1-23.
4. Bell, Sam, David R. Cingranelli, Amanda Murdie, and Alper Caglayan. 2013. "Coercion, Capacity, and Coordination: Predictors of Political Violence." *Conflict Management and Peace Science*. 30(3): 240-262.
5. **Recommended:** Davenport, Christian and Cyanne Loyle. 2012. "The States Must be Crazy: Dissent and the Puzzle of Repressive Persistence." *International Journal of Conflict and Violence*. 6(1): 75-95.

## Week 4, February 6, 8, & 10: Which Governments Abuse Human Rights?

**Goals:** Do Democracies repress less than autocracies? Does regime type matter?

### Readings:

1. Fein, Helen. 1995. "More Murder in the Middle: Life-Integrity Violations and Democracy in the World, 1987." *Human Rights Quarterly*. 17: 170-191.
2. Davenport, Christian and David A. Armstrong II. 2004. "Democracy and the Violation of Human Rights: A Statistical Analysis from 1986-1996." *American Journal of Political Science*. 48(3): 538-554.
3. Cingranelli, David and Mikhail Filippov. 2010. "Electoral Rules and Incentives to Protect Human Rights." *The Journal of Politics*. 72(1): 243-257.
4. Hill, Daniel W. Jr. and Zachary M. Jones. 2014. "An Empirical Evaluation of Explanations for State Repression." *American Political Science Review*. 108(3): 661-687.
5. **Recommended:** Richards, David L. and Ronald D. Gelleny. 2007. "Good Things to Those Who Wait? National Elections and Government Respect for Human Rights." *Journal of Peace Research*. 44(4): 505-523.

6. **Recommended:** Frantz, Erica and Andrea Kendall-Taylor. 2014. "A Dictator's Toolkit: Understanding how Co-Optation Affects Repression in Autocracies." *Journal of Peace Research*. 52(3): 332-346.

## **Week 5, February 13, 15, & 17: Human Rights and Political Economy**

**Goals:** Does Economics influence human rights?

### **Readings:**

1. Dreher, Axel, Martin Gassebner, and Lars-H.R. Siemers. 2012. "Globalization, Economic Freedom, and Human Rights." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 56(3): 516-546.
2. Blanton, Shannon Lindsey and Robert G. Blanton. 2006. "Human Rights and Foreign Direct Investment: A Two-Stage Analysis." *Business and Society*. 56(2): 427-436.
3. Sorens, Jason and William Ruger. 2012. "Does Foreign Investment Really Reduce Repression?" *International Studies Quarterly*. 45: 219-239.
4. Brian Greenhill, Layna Mosley and Aseem Prakash. 2009. "Trade-based Diffusion of Labor Rights: A Panel Study, 1986-2002." *American Political Science Review*. 103(4): 169-190.
5. **Recommended:** Howard-Hassmann, Rhoda E. 2005. "The Second Great Transformation: Human Rights Leapfrogging in the Era." *Human Rights Quarterly*. 27(1): 1-40.

## **Week 6, February 20, 22, & 24:**

**Exam 1: February 20**

**No Class Wednesday, February 22 or Friday, February 24:** ISA National Convention.

## **Week 7, February 27, March 1, & 3: Contentious Politics and Human Rights**

**Goals:** How do international and civil wars affect human rights abuse? How about protests? Does repression work?

### **Readings:**

1. Rasler, Karen. 1996. "Concessions, Repression, and Political Protest in the Iranian Revolution." *American Sociological Review*. 61(Feb): 132-152.
2. Carey, Sabine C. 2006. "The Dynamic Relationship Between Protest and Repression." *Political Research Quarterly*. 59(1): 1-11.

- Peterson, Timothy M. and Leah Graham. 2011. "Shared Human Rights Norms and Military Conflict." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 55(2): 248-273.
- Young, Joseph K. 2012. "Repression, Dissent, and the Onset of Civil War." *Political Research Quarterly*. 66(3): 516-532.

## **Week 8, March 6, 8, & 10: The Bad Stuff: Terrorism, Mass Killing, and Genocide**

**Goals:** Does repression increase terrorism? What causes mass killings and genocide?

### **Readings:**

- Krain, Matthew. 1997. "State-Sponsored Mass Murder: The Onset and Severity of Genocides and Politicides." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 41(3): 331-360.
- Harff, Barbara. 2003. "No Lessons Learned from the Holocaust? Assessing Risks of Genocide and Political Mass Murder since 1955." *American Political Science Review*. 97(1), 57-73.
- Walsh, James I. and James A. Piazza. 2010. "Why Respecting Physical Integrity Rights Reduces Terrorism." *Comparative Political Studies*. 43(5): 551-577.
- Daxecker, Ursula E. and Michael L. Hess. 2012. "Repression Hurts: Coercive Government Responses and the Demise of Terrorist Campaigns." *British Journal of Political Science*. 43, 559-577.
- Recommended:** Downes, Alexander B. 2006. "Desperate Times, Desperate Measures: The Causes of Civilian Victimization in War." *International Security*. 30(4): 152-195.

## **Week 9, March 13, 15, & 17: Women's Rights**

**Goals:** Why do women need their own rights? Variation in rights respect across genders?

### **Readings:**

- Coleman, Isobel. 2004. "The Payoff from Women's Rights." *Foreign Affairs*. 83(3) 80-95.
- Carpenter, R. Charli. 2005. "Women Children and Other Vulnerable Groups:" Gender, Strategic Frames and the Protection of Civilians as a Transnational Issue." *International Studies Quarterly*. 49, 295-334.
- Cherif, Feryal M. 2010. "Culture, Rights, and Norms: Women's Rights Reform in Muslim Countries." *Journal of Politics*. 72(4): 1144-1160.
- Zwingel, Susanne. 2012. "How Do Norms Travel? Theorizing International Women's Rights in Transnational Perspective." *International Studies Quarterly*. 56(1): 115-129.



5. **Recommended:** Carpenter, R. Charli. 2006. "Recognizing Gender-Based Violence Against Civilian Men and Boys in Conflict Situations." *Security Dialogue*. 37(1): 83-103.

## **Week 10, March 20, 22, & 24: Worker's Rights and Human Trafficking**

**Goals:** How does respect for economic rights work across countries? Can workers improve their situation? How does globalization affect human trafficking?

### **Readings:**

1. Mosely, Layna and Saika Uno. 2007. "Racing to the Bottom or Climbing to the Top? Economic Globalization and Collective Labor Rights." *Comparative Political Studies*. 40(8): 923-948.
2. Greenhill, Brian, Layna Mosley, and Aseem Prakash. 2009. "Trade-based Diffusion of Labor Rights: A Panel Study, 1986-2002." *The American Political Science Review*. 103(4), 669-690.
3. Hepburn, Stephanie and Rita J. Simon. 2010. "Hidden in Plain Sight: Human Trafficking in the United States." *Gender Issues*. 27(1): 1-26.
4. Cho, Seo-Young. 2013. "Integrating Equality: Globalization, Women's Rights, and Human Trafficking." *International Studies Quarterly*. 57(4): 683-697.
5. **Recommended:** Cho, Seo-Young, Axel Dreher, and Eric Neumayer. 2013. "Does Legalized Prostitution Increase Human Trafficking?" *World Development* 41(3): 67-82.

## **Week 11, March 27, 29, & 31:**

**No Class, Spring Break**

## **Week 12, April 3, 5, & 7: LGBT Rights**

**Goals:** The rights of sexual minorities and the increase in anti-LGBT violence.

### **Readings:**

1. Kollman, Kelly and Matthew Waites. 2009. "The Global Politics of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Rights: An Introduction." *Contemporary Politics* 15(1): 1-17.
2. Asal, Victor, Udi Sommer, and Paul G. Harwood. 2013. "Original Sin: A Cross-National Study of the Legality of Homosexual Acts." *Comparative Political Studies* 46(3): 320-351.

3. Wilkinson, Cai. 2014. "Putting 'Traditional Values' Into Practice: The Rise and Contestation of Anti-Homopropaganda Laws in Russia." *Journal of Human Rights*. 13: 363-379.

**Exam 2: April 7**

**Week 13, April 10, 12, & 14: Transitional Justice and Human Rights**

**Goals:** How do we deal with the aftermath of violence? Can perpetrator-victim populations live together after violence?

**Readings:**

1. Staub, Ervin. 2006. "Reconciliation after Genocide, Mass Killing, or Intractable Conflict: Understanding the Roots of Violence, Psychological Recovery, and Steps toward a General Theory." *Political Psychology*. 27(6), 867-894.
2. Nobles, Melissa. 2010. "The Prosecution of Human Rights Violations." *Annual Review of Political Science* 13: 165-182.
3. Aguilar, Paloma, Laia Balcells, and Hector Sebolla-Boado. "Determinants of Attitudes Toward Transitional Justice: An Empirical Analysis of the Spanish Case." *Comparative Political Studies*. 44(10): 1397-1430.
4. Escriba-Folch, Abel and Joseph Wright. 2015. "Human Rights Prosecutions and Autocratic Survival." *International Organization*. 69, 343-373.

**Week 14, April 17, 19, & 21: International Law and Human Rights**

**Goals:** Do international treaties actually improve human rights? Or are they just paper promises?

**Readings:**

1. Hafner-Burton, Emilie and Kiyoteru Tsutsui. 2005. "Human Rights in a Globalizing World: The Paradox of Empty Promises." *American Journal of Sociology*. 110(5): 1373-1411.
2. Vreeland, James Raymond. 2008. "Political Institutions and Human Rights: Why Dictatorships Enter into the United Nations Convention against Torture." *International Organization*. 62(1): 65-101.
3. Simmons, Beth. 2009. "Chapter 3: Theories of Commitment." In *Mobilizing for Human Rights International Law in Domestic Politics*. Massachusetts: Cambridge University Press.

4. Cole, Wade. 2013. "Government Respect for Gendered Rights: The Effect of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on Womens Rights Outcomes, 1981-2004." *International Studies Quarterly*. 57(2): 233-249.
5. **Recommended:** Moavcsik, Andrew. 2000. "The Origins of Human Rights Regimes: Democratic Delegation in Postwar Europe." *International Organization*. 54(2): 217-252.

## **Week 15, April 24, 26, & 28: NGO Advocacy and Human Rights**

**Goals:** Can human rights NGOs as non-state actors, improve respect for human rights? Does "naming and shaming" work?

### **Readings:**

1. Keck, Margaret and Kathryn Sikkink. 1999. "Transnational Advocacy Networks in International and Regional Politics." *International Social Science Journal*. 159: 89-101.
2. DeMeritt, Jacqueline H.R. 2012. "International Organizations and Government Killing: Does Naming and Shaming Save Lives?" *International Interactions*. 38: 597-621.
3. Murdie, Amanda and David R. Davis. 2012. "Shaming and Blaming: Using Events Data to Assess the Impact of Human Rights INGOs" *International Studies Quarterly*. 56(1): 1-16.
4. DeMeritt, Jacqueline H.R. Courtenay R. Conrad, and Christopher J. Fariss. 2016. "How International Advocacy Can Worsen State Repression." *Working Paper*. 1-41.

## **Week 16, May 1, 3, & 5: State Responses to Human Rights**

**Goals:** Can abusive states bypass pressure to improve human rights conditions?

### **Readings:**

1. Wright, Joseph G. and Abel Escriba-Folch. 2009. "Are Dictators Immune to Human Rights Shaming?" *IBEI Working Papers*. 1-40.
2. Conrad, Courtenay and DeMeritt, Jacqueline H.R. 2011. "Human Rights Advocacy and State Repression Substitutability (2011)" APSA 2011 Annual Meeting Paper.
3. Hendrix, Cullen S. and Wendy H. Wong. 2013. "When Is the Pen Truly Mighty? Regime Type and the Efficacy of Naming and Shaming in Curbing Human Rights Abuses." *British Journal of Political Science*. 43: 651-672.
4. Ucko, David H. 2015. "'The People are Revolting': An Anatomy of Authoritarian Counterinsurgency." *The Journal of Strategic Studies*.
5. Skaskiw, Roman. 2016. "Nine Lessons of Russian Propaganda." *Small Wars Journal*.

6. **Recommended:** Weyland, Kurt. 2016. "Crafting Counterrevolution: How Reactionaries Learned to Combat Change in 1848." *American Political Science Review*. 110(2): 215-231.

## **Week 17, May 11: Finals Week**

**Exam 3: May 11, 12:30-2:30pm**