

PSC 405Z-002 – Special Topics: Int'l Human Rights  
Fall 2006  
Tuesday & Thursday 1-2:15pm  
Room WRI-C237

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Office Hours: T 8.30-10, R 10-11.30

This course examines the rise of human rights as an important issue in international relations. Topics will include an exploration of the nature of human rights and their origins, analysis of the uneven protection of human rights around the world, and different means through which the international community has sought to deal with gross human rights abuses. In particular, we will look at extended case studies of Rwanda and Argentina to illustrate the challenges in protecting human rights domestically and globally. Students are expected to have successfully completed PSC 231 - Intro to IR prior to taking the course.

Specifically, the course objectives are that the student complete the course with an ability to:

- Describe the nature of international human rights institutions and be able to explain at least two strengths and weaknesses.
- Explain at least three pitfalls to humanitarian intervention and be able to use them to analyze new, real-world situations.
- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of four approaches to addressing a legacy of human rights abuses and be able to use them to analyze new, real-world situations.

### Course Requirements

#### Texts

Jack Donnelly, *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2002). ISBN: 0801487765

Micheline R. Ishay, *The History of Human Rights* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004). ISBN: 0520234979

Jaime E. Malamud Goti, *Game Without End: State Terror and the Politics of Justice* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press 1996), ISBN: 0806128267

Linda Melvern, *Conspiracy to Murder: The Rwanda Genocide and the International Community* (New York: Verso, 2004). ISBN: 1859845886

The books are also on 2-hour reserve in Lied Library.

I also expect you to keep up with current events on a regular basis through a major international news source. I recommend you subscribe to The Economist (see [www.economistacademic.com](http://www.economistacademic.com)). Other good sources of information include The New York Times ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)), Financial Times ([www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com)), International Herald Tribune ([www.iht.com](http://www.iht.com)), Asia Times ([www.atimes.com](http://www.atimes.com)), and Le Monde ([www.lemonde.fr](http://www.lemonde.fr)). For developments more particular to

human rights, see Human Rights Watch ([www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)) and Amnesty International ([www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)).

### **Assignments**

*Research Papers* (25 points each): You will write two approximately 10 page (12 page max) papers. The assignments are designed to have you apply lessons you have learned throughout the semester through a series of case studies to new, real-world human rights issues. You will need to do some background research as the basis for your policy discussion. Later in the semester, I will give you more detailed assignments as well as some resources to help you get started. Late papers will not be permitted without a valid, documented excuse.

*Response Papers* (5 points each): Throughout the semester, you will write four short, 1-2 page, papers in which you will provide a concise, reasoned reaction to a reading or controversy from class. There is no right or wrong answer to these response papers, but strong papers will be thoughtful, well-reasoned reflections. Five assignments will be given throughout the semester so you are allowed to skip one. Papers are due at the beginning of class and no late papers will be permitted. The specific questions will be handed out later in the semester.

*Simulation* (10 points): During the semester, we will be conducting a one week simulation. You will be assessed on your preparation for and contribution to the simulation. More on this in a future handout.

*Participation* (20 points): Attendance and participation are important and make up equal parts of this grade. Be sure to come to class prepared to discuss the day's readings. Every absence after the second will reduce your participation grade by .5 points. Students who arrive late or leave early will be marked absent unless prior approval has been reached with the instructor. Students who expect to miss class because of the observance of a religious holiday will have an opportunity to make up missed work provided that the instructor has been notified in writing regarding the anticipated absence by the last day of late registration. Students who expect to miss class due to an officially sanctioned, UNLV activity (e.g., intercollegiate athletics) must notify the instructor in writing at least 7 days prior to the anticipated absence and provide written verification of participation. The instructor also reserves the right to conduct quizzes.

Attending class will help you succeed in this course, but you will excel further through active participation. Good participation involves contributing to the discussion through providing information from the readings and by sharing ideas related to the application of various concepts we will discuss. The classroom will be an environment in which everyone is treated with respect. Keep interruptions to a minimum. Cell phones and pagers should be turned off, late arrivals and early departures avoided, and no "side-bar" conversations held.

*Final Grades*: The points for each of these elements totals 100. Translated into letter grades, course grades will be determined by the following: A (93-100); A- (90-93); B+ (87-90); B (83-87); B- (80-83); C+ (77-80); C (73-77); C- (70-73); D+ (67-70); D (63-67); D- (60-63); F (60 and below).

*Grading Notes:* Incompletes will only be offered when requested in writing on behalf of a student by the Chair of the Department of Political Science or the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. All grade disputes must be in writing and must be submitted within one week of the assignment or exam being returned to you.

Ordinarily no makeups will be given for missed assignments. However, if extraordinary circumstances require one, then students must do the following in order to qualify: (1) inform the instructor of the problem at some time prior to the exam itself and (2) provide documentation of the problem. All make-up exams will be scheduled immediately upon your return to class.

Extra credit will not be offered.

### **Academic Misconduct**

Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution. For details on the Student Conduct Code, see <http://www.unlv.edu/studentlife/judicial/StudentConductCode04.pdf>

The instructor reserves the right to have students' assignments submitted electronically and assessed by plagiarism detection software. The University requires all members of the University Community to be familiar with and to follow copyright and fair use laws. **YOU ARE INDIVIDUALLY AND SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLATIONS OF COPYRIGHT AND FAIR USE LAWS. THE UNIVERSITY WILL NEITHER PROTECT NOR DEFEND YOU NOR ASSUME ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR EMPLOYEE OR STUDENT VIOLATIONS OF FAIR USE LAWS.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability as well as disciplinary action under University policies. To help familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, the University encourages you to visit its copyright page at [www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright](http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright). Plagiarism of any form will result in a failing grade for the course and the instructor will file a case with the Office of Student Conduct.

### **Student Accommodation**

The UNLV Disability Resource Center (DRC) houses the resources for students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to let me know within the first two weeks of the semester and contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137, and the contact numbers are: VOICE (702) 895-0866, TTY (702) 895-0652, FAX (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>

### **Course Schedule** (subject to change)

*Evolution of Human Rights Ideas*

August 29 Introductions

August 31 The Legacy of Nuremberg

Reading: Donnelly Chr 1

September 5 Human Rights & the Enlightenment Reading: Ishay Chr 2  
September 7 Human Rights & Industrialization Reading: Ishay Chr 3  
September 12 Human Rights & the World Wars Reading: Ishay Chr 4  
September 14 Cultural Relativism/Asian Values Reading: Donnelly Chr 6-7

*Preventive Action*

September 19 Human Rights & Foreign Policy Reading: Donnelly Chr 9-10  
Due: Response Paper 1

September 21 United Nations Reading: Donnelly Chr 8  
Optional: [United Nations Charter](#); [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)  
[United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide](#).

September 26 Humanitarian Intervention Simulation 1  
Due: Country Position Paper

September 28 Humanitarian Intervention Simulation 2  
Reading: Donnelly Chr 14

October 3 Politics of Humanitarian Intervention Reading: Melvern Chr 1-2  
Due: Response Paper 2

October 5 Somalia  
Reading: Nicholas J. Wheeler. "From Famine Relief to 'Humanitarian War'; the US and UN Intervention in Somalia." *Saving Strangers: Humanitarian Intervention in International Society*. New York: Oxford University Press) pp. 172-207.

*Rwanda*

October 10 Video: Frontline: Ghosts of Rwanda 1 Reading: Melvern Chr 3-5

October 12 Video: Frontline: Ghosts of Rwanda 2 Reading: Melvern Chr 6-7

October 17 The UN & Rwanda Reading: Melvern Chr 8-9  
Due: Response Paper 3

October 19 Humanitarian Aid Reading: Melvern Chr 10

*Accountability for the Past*

October 24 Nuremberg Trials  
Reading: Gary Jonathan Bass. "Nuremberg," *Stay the Hand of Vengeance* (Princeton University Press) pp. 147-205.

Optional: [Avalon Project: Nuremberg War Crimes Trials at Yale Law School](#)

October 26 Accounting for the Past in Rwanda Reading: Melvern Chr 11-12

October 31 International Criminal Court (ICC)

Reading: Bartram S. Brown. 2000. "The Statute of the ICC: Past, Present, and Future." in Sarah B. Sewall & Carl Kaysen, eds. *The United States and the International Criminal Court: National Security and International Law* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield) pp.61-84. Plus the Appendix pp.249-254.

Optional: [Rome Statute](#); [International Criminal Court](#)

November 2 The US & the ICC

Reading: William L. Nash. 2000. "The ICC and the Deployment of US Armed Forces." in Sarah B. Sewall & Carl Kaysen, eds. *The United States and the International Criminal Court: National Security and International Law* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield) pp.153-164.

Due: Research Paper 1

*National Remedies: Argentina*

November 7 Transitional Justice Introduction

Reading: Malamud-Goti Intro, Chr 1

Due: Response Paper 4

November 9 Argentina Introduction

Reading: Malamud-Goti Chr 2-4

Video: Los Desaparecidos = The Disappeared Ones. JC599.A7 D47 2003

November 14 Notions of Justice

Reading: Maiese, Michelle. "Types of Justice." *Beyond Intractability*. Eds. Guy Burgess and Heidi Burgess. Conflict Research Consortium, University of Colorado, Boulder. Posted: July 2003 [http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/types\\_of\\_justice/](http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/types_of_justice/). Also follow the links in this essay to read the essays on [Distributive justice](#), [Retributive justice](#), and [restorative justice](#).

November 16 Trials

Reading: Malamud-Goti Chr 5-6

November 21 Truth Commissions

Reading: Brahm, Eric. "Truth Commissions." *Beyond Intractability*. Eds. Guy Burgess and Heidi Burgess. Conflict Research Consortium, University of Colorado, Boulder. Posted: June 2004 <[http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/truth\\_commissions/](http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/truth_commissions/)>.

Due: Response Paper 5

November 23 Thanksgiving Recess

November 28 Lustration

Reading: Brahm, Eric. "Lustration." *Beyond Intractability*. Eds. Guy Burgess and Heidi Burgess. Conflict Research Consortium, University of Colorado, Boulder. Posted: June 2004 <<http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/lustration/>>.

November 30 Universal Jurisdiction

Reading: Henry A. Kissinger 2001 "The Pitfalls of Universal Jurisdiction" *Foreign Affairs*, July/August.; Kenneth Roth 2001 "The [Case For Universal Jurisdiction](#)" *Foreign Affairs*, September/October. <<http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20010901faresponse5577/kenneth-roth/the-case-for-universal-jurisdiction.html>>

December 5 Globalization & Human Rights

Reading: Ishay Chr 5

December 7 Human Rights & the 'War on Terror'

Reading: Ishay Chr 5

December 12 1-3:00 PM

**Due at my office:** Research Paper 2