

The Politics of Human Rights

V53.0700 Fall 2010

TTH 11:00-12:15

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Course Description

This course is designed to provide a broad introduction to the study of human rights from the perspective of political science. It examines the political history of the international human rights regime; recent political theory and psychological perspectives on human rights, the causes of contemporary human rights problems; the economic, social, and political factors associated with human rights progress; and the strategic approaches that are currently being employed to improve human rights in different settings.

Course Requirements

- **Class Participation (15%):**
- **Short Papers on Readings (20%)**
- **Midterm (25%)**
- **Research Paper and Presentation (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.

Week 1. Introduction

Week 2. The Evolution of Human Rights

2.1 Pinker, Steven. 2008. The Moral Instinct. *New York Times Magazine* (1-13-08).

2.2 de Waal, Frans. 2008. "Putting the Altruism Back into Altruism: The Evolution of Empathy. *Annual Review of Psychology*.
[http://www.emory.edu/LIVING_LINKS/pdf_attachments/de%20Waal%20\(2008\).pdf](http://www.emory.edu/LIVING_LINKS/pdf_attachments/de%20Waal%20(2008).pdf)

2.3 Slovic, Paul. 2007. Psychic Numbing and Genocide. *Judgment and Decision Making*, 2(2): 79-95.

2.4 Waldron, Jeremy. 2009. "Right and Wrong: Psychologists vs. Philosophers." *New York Review of Books*. 56(15).

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.

Week 3: Political Theory and Human Rights

3.1 Stand Up For Your Rights! 2007. *Economist* 5/22/07.

3.2 Pogge, Thomas 2005. "World Poverty and Human Rights" *Ethics in International Affairs* 19(1).

3.3 Cohen, Joshua 2004. "Minimalism About Human Rights: The Most We Can Hope For?" *Journal of Political Philosophy*, 12(2):190-213.

3.4 Cohen, Jean. 2008. "Rethinking Human Rights, Democracy, and Sovereignty in the Age of Globalization." *Political Theory* 36(4): 578-606.

Week 4. The Epidemiology of HR Problems I

4.1 Web sites: Amnesty International, HR Watch, International Crisis Group, Freedom House (see Freedom in World Rankings, Historical Trends in Media Freedom).

4.2 Landman, T. 2004. "Measuring Human Rights: Principle, Practice, and Policy." *Human Rights Quarterly* 26: 906.

4.3 Landman, Todd 2005. "The Political Science of Human Rights." *British Journal of Political Science*. 35:549-572.

4.4 Davenport, Christian (2007). "State Repression and Political Order." *Annual Review of Political Science* 10:1-23.

Recommended:

4.5 Bueno de Mesquita, et al. *The Logic of Political Survival*, Chapter 8

4.6 Acemoglu and Robinson, *Economic Origins of Democracy and Dictatorship*, pp. 1-30, Chapter 5

Week 5 The Epidemiology of HR Problems II: Conflict and Incapacity

5.1 Englehart, N. A. 2009. "State Capacity, State Failure, and Human Rights." *Journal of Peace Research* 46(2):163.

5.2 Hoeffler, Anke and Marta Reynal-Querol 2003. "Measuring the Costs of Conflict" World Bank
http://www.patrir.ro/london/september/Costs%20of%20Conflict%20Mapping/2003_Hoeffler_Reynal.pdf

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

5.4 Hayarimana, James et al. "Why Does Ethnic Diversity Undermine Public Goods Provision?" *APSR* 101(4): 709-725.

Week 6: HR Progress via Democratization and Development

6.1 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.

6.2 Jensen, Robert and Emily Oster. "The Power of TV: Cable Television and Women's Status in India. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.

6.3 Ross, Michael. 2008 "Oil, Islam, and Women." *American Political Science Review* 102(1): 107-122.

Week 7: The Birth of the Transnational/International Human Rights Movement

7.1 Hochschild, Adam. (2006) *Bury the Chains*. New York: Houghton Mifflin

Week 8: Human Rights Agreements

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

8.2 Neumayer, Eric. 2005. "Do Human Rights Treaties Improve Respect for Human Rights?" *JCRS* 49(6):925-953.

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

8.4 Cole, WM. 2005. "Explaining the Commitment to International Human Rights Covenants 1966-1999." *American Sociological Review*

8.5 Smith, Kei. 2008. "Comparing state and international protections of indigenous people's human rights." *American Behavioral Scientist* 53(12) 1817-1835.

Week 9: Reputational Sanctions

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

9.2 "Reputation, Compliance and International Law." *Journal of Legal Studies*, Vol 31 (1): 595-115. 2002. Mike Jones co-author.

9.3 Hafner-Burton, Emily. 2008. "Sticks and Stones: Naming and Shaming and The Human Right Enforcement Problem," *International Organization* 62:4.

Week 10: Trade Agreements, Economic Integration and Human Rights

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

10.2 Hafner-Burton, Emile. Trading Human Rights: How Preferential Trade Agreements Influence Government Repression, *International Organization* 59(3)_593-629.

Week 11: Globalization and Human Rights

11.1 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.

11.2 Blanton, S.L., and R.G. Blanton. 2008. What Attracts Foreign Investors? *Journal of Politics*.

11.3 Mosley, Layna and Saiko Uno. 2007. Racing to the Bottom or Climbing to the Top? Globalization and Collective Labor Rights. *Comparative Political Studies* 40(8): 923-948.

11.4 Truman, John and Craig Emmert. 2004. The Political Economy of U.S. Foreign Direct Investment In Latin America: A Reappraisal. *Latin American Research Review*. 39(3): 9-28.

Week 12: HR and Bilateral Foreign Policy

12.1 Neumayer, Eric. 2003. Is Respect for HR Rewarded? *Human Rights Quarterly* 510-27.

12.2. Blanton, Shannon. 2000. "Promoting Human Rights and Democracy in the Developing World: US Rhetoric versus Arms Exports." *AJPS* 44(1) 123-131.

12.3 Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce and George Downs, "Intervention and Democracy." *International Organization* 60(3): 2006.