

Dartmouth College
Department of Government

GOVT 50.03 Human Rights and International Relations

Fall 2012, Time period 2
Mon, Wed & Fri: 1:45-2:50
X-Hour: Thu 1:00-1:50
Classroom: Silsby 213

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Office hours (Silsby 223):
Tue & Fri 3:00-4:00pm & by appt.

Course Description:

States' human rights practices are no longer viewed as simply a domestic political issue. Since the end of WWII, a complex system of international laws and institutions has developed that aims to regulate the human rights practices of states. In this course we will study the politics of the human rights regime and consider the following big questions:

- What exactly are human rights?
- Does international human rights law have any impact on states' behavior? If so, how?
- Is globalization good or bad for human rights?
- How effective are non-governmental organizations in changing states' human rights practices?
- Is the evolving human rights regime changing what it means to be a state in the 21st century?

Pre-requisites:

This course is designed for students who have already taken GOVT 5 (Introduction to International Relations) or equivalent. It will assume a basic understanding of the major theoretical approaches to IR (i.e., realism, liberalism and constructivism).

Assignments:

One of the most important set of skills you will develop in college is the ability to express complex ideas clearly in writing and in speech. This is essential for just about any career you might be considering. The assignments in this course are designed to help you to develop these skills. Your overall grade for this course will be made up of the following elements:

25%: Short Paper 1
25%: Short Paper 2
30%: Final Exam (take-home)
20%: Participation (in-class & online)

The goal of each short paper assignment is to provide a 4-5 page report (called a "literature review") summarizing the latest research on a particular issue that is of interest to you. The topic must be connected to the politics of human rights. I

recommend approaching it by posing one specific question that your literature review will seek to answer. An example would be, "Is trade good or bad for human rights in developing countries?" Once you've clearly defined your question, go on to provide a critical review of the more significant pieces of research that speak to that issue. Wherever possible, identify ways in which these studies complement or contradict each other. Conclude with a paragraph that reflects on how well recent research has been able to answer the question you first posed. If possible, try to add a sentence or two that suggests what the most promising directions for future research might be. Please note that we'll be spending a whole class discussing this type of assignment on Wednesday September 19.

The final exam is in the form of an open book take-home exam. It will take the form of either one or two short essay questions designed to test your understanding of the material covered in the course.

The remaining 20% of your grade is based upon your overall level of participation, both in class and online. To score a high grade for participation, you are expected to actively participate in class discussions and to frequently contribute thoughtful questions, comments and responses to the online discussion board. There is no minimum number of comments in class or posts to the discussion board required for a high grade, but good participation will involve making comments and raising questions that you think will help your fellow students to better understand the material covered in the course. Students who are less comfortable speaking up in class can still achieve a high grade for participation by making additional posts on the online discussion board.

Important Dates and Deadlines:

- Friday October 12: First short paper due by 6:00pm.
- Sunday November 11: Second short paper due by 6:00pm.
- Monday November 19: Final papers due by 6:00pm.

All completed assignments are to be uploaded to Blackboard in **pdf** format.

Academic Integrity:

All students are responsible for understanding and adhering to Dartmouth's rules on academic integrity. The following website provides an excellent discussion of some of the questions commonly raised in discussions about plagiarism: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/%7Ewriting/sources/sources-citation.html>

Accommodations:

If you would like to request accommodations to be made for a disability or for any other reason (e.g., religious observances), please ensure that you notify me before the end of the first week of class. Please see this website for further guidance: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~accessibility/current/index.html>

Required Books:

There are no required books for this course. All course materials consist of journal articles or single book chapters that are available for download via Blackboard.

Reading Schedule:

Please note that the reading schedule is likely to be amended at various points in the course. Please regularly check Blackboard to ensure you are using the most up-to-date version.

Topic 1: Introduction to the politics of human rights

Monday 9/10 -- Introductory class (no assigned reading)

Wednesday 9/12

1. Jagland (2010) "Why We Gave Liu Xiaobo a Nobel" in *The New York Times*, 10/22/10
2. Donnelly (1999) "The Social Construction of International Human Rights" in Dunne and Wheeler *Human Rights in Global Politics*, pp. 71-102
3. Ignatieff (2001) "Human Rights as Politics" in *Human Rights as Politics and Idolatry*

Friday 9/14

1. Glendon (2001) *A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Preface: pp. xv-xxi
2. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
3. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
4. Carter (2012) "A Cruel and Unusual Record" in *The New York Times*, 6/24/12

Topic 2: Debates about the scope of human rights

Monday 9/17

1. Pollis and Schwab (1979) "Human Rights: A Western Construct with Limited Applicability" in *Human Rights: Cultural and Ideological Perspectives*, pp. 1-18.
2. Franck (2001) "Are Human Rights Universal?" *Foreign Affairs* 80 (1): 191-204.
3. Mahbubani (2010) "An Ignoble Nobel" *International Herald Tribune* November 11, 2010.

Wednesday 9/19 - Special session on writing literature reviews featuring a presentation by Francis Oscadal, Government Librarian

1. Guidelines for writing literature reviews (see links to relevant websites on Blackboard)
2. Hafner-Burton (2012) "International Regimes for Human Rights". *Annual Review of Political Science* 15: 265-286.

Friday 9/21 - Careers talk by Kate Yee, Dartmouth Careers Services (no assigned reading)

Monday 9/24

1. The Economist (2001) "Special Report: Righting Wrongs - Human Rights"
2. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
3. Shue (1996) "Correlative Duties" in *Basic Rights: Subsistence, Affluence and US Foreign Policy*, pp. 35-64
4. Roth (2004) "Defending Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Practical Issues Faced by an International Human Rights Organization." *Human Rights Quarterly* 26 (1): 63-73.

Wednesday 9/26 - Guest lecture by Professor Baldez

1. Bunch (1990) "Women's Rights as Human Rights: Toward a Re-Vision of Human Rights". *Human Rights Quarterly* 12 (4): 486-498.
2. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
3. General Recommendations by the CEDAW committee Numbers 19, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 & 28. Available at <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/comments.htm>

Topic 3: The role of international human rights treaties

Friday 9/28

1. Glennon (2003) "Sometimes a Great Notion." *The Wilson Quarterly* 27 (4): 45-49.
2. Krasner (1999) "Rulers and Ruled: Human Rights" in *Sovereignty: Organized Hypocrisy* pp. 105-126

Monday 10/1

1. Hawkins (2004) "Explaining Costly International Institutions: Persuasion and Enforceable Human Rights Norms." *International Studies Quarterly* 48: 779-804.
2. *New York Times* (1973) "Moscow Ratifies 2 U.N. Covenants on Human Rights."
3. Hafner-Burton and Tsutsui (2005) "Human Rights in a Globalizing World: The Paradox of Empty Promises" *American Journal of Sociology* 110 (5): 1373-1411

Wednesday 10/3

1. Short (4 min) video of the work of the most recent session of the Human Rights Council: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/>
2. Davies (2010) "Rhetorical Inaction? Compliance and the Human Rights Council of the United Nations"
3. Pickering, McDonough and Elmendorf (2010) "Let the U.N. Criticize Us" *The New York Times* November 2, 2010.
4. Skim the Human Rights Council's report on the United States <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G11/100/69/PDF/G1110069.pdf?OpenElement>

Topic 4: The International Criminal Court

Friday 10/5

1. Cobban (2006) "Think Again: International Courts." *Foreign Policy* 153: 22-28.
2. Sikkink (2011) "Making Tyrants Do Time" *The New York Times*, September 15 2011.
3. Kissinger (2001) "The Pitfalls of Universal Jurisdiction" *Foreign Affairs* 80 (4): 86-96
4. Roth (2001) "The Case for Universal Jurisdiction" *Foreign Affairs* 80 (5): 150-154

Monday 10/8

1. Mayerfeld (2003) "Who Shall Be Judge? The United States, the International Criminal Courts, and the Global Enforcement of Human Rights". *Human Rights Quarterly* 25 (1): 93-129
2. Goldsmith (2003) "The Self-Defeating International Criminal Court" *The University of Chicago Law Review* 70 (1): 89-104.

Wednesday 10/10

1. McMahon and Forsythe (2008) "The ICTY's Impact on Serbia: Judicial Romanticism meets Network Politics" *Human Rights Quarterly* 30: 412-435.
2. Tax (2010) "Women Have Human Rights Too." *The Guardian* December 13, 2010.

Thursday 10/11 (X-hour)

Peer review of short paper drafts.

Friday 10/12

Catch-up session - no assigned reading.

*** First short paper due Friday 10/12 at 6:00pm ***

Topic 5: Regional human rights regimes

Monday 10/15

1. Moravcsik (2003) "The Origin of Human Rights Regimes: Democratic Delegation in Postwar Europe." *International Organization* 54 (2): 217-252.
2. New York Times (2010) "Court Rejects Irish Abortion Ban." December 16, 2010

Wednesday 10/17

1. Farer (1997) "The Rise of the Inter-American Human Rights Regime: No Longer a Unicorn, Not Yet an Ox" *Human Rights Quarterly* 19 (3): 510-546
2. Mutua (2000) "The Construction of the African Human Rights System: Prospects and Pitfalls" in Power and Allison (eds.) *Realizing Human Rights*, pp. 143-166

Topic 6: International pressures -- from sanctions to shaming

Friday 10/19

1. Wood (2008) "'A Hand upon the Throat of the Nation': Economic Sanctions and State Repression, 1976-2001" *International Studies Quarterly* 52: 489-513.
2. Addis (2003) "Economic Sanctions and the Problem of Evil." *Human Rights Quarterly* 25 (3): 573-623.

Monday 10/22

1. Tostensen and Bull (2002) "Are Smart Sanctions Feasible?" *World Politics* 54 (3): 373-403.
2. Franklin (2008) "Shame on You: The Impact of Human Rights Criticism on Political Repression in Latin America". *International Studies Quarterly* 52: 187-211

Wednesday 10/24

1. Thomas (2005) "Human Rights Ideas, the Demise of Communism, and the End of the Cold War". *Journal of Cold War Studies* 7 (2): 110-141
2. Klotz (1995) Ch. 3 "The United Nations" in *Norms in International Relations: The Struggle Against Apartheid*. pp. 39-54.

Topic 7: NGOs

Friday 10/26

1. Keck and Sikkink (1998) "Transnational Advocacy Networks in International Politics: Introduction" in *Activists Beyond Borders*, pp. 1-38
2. Kollman (2007) "Same-Sex Unions: The Globalization of an Idea" *International Studies Quarterly* 51: 329-357

Monday 10/29

1. Bob (2002) "Globalization and the Social Construction of Human Rights Campaigns" in Brysk *Globalization and Human Rights*, pp. 133-147
2. Berkovitch and Gordon (2008) "The Political Economy of Transnational Regimes: The Case of Human Rights". *International Studies Quarterly* 52: 881-904

Topic 8: Globalization and human rights

Wednesday 10/31

1. Bacon (2004) "Grapes and Green Onions" in *Children of NAFTA: Labor Wars on the US-Mexico Border*, pp. 19-41.

2. Howard-Hassman (2005) "The Second Great Transformation: Human Rights Leapfrogging in the Era of Globalization" *Human Rights Quarterly* 27 (1): 1-40

Friday 11/2

1. Spar (1998) "The Spotlight and the Bottom Line: How Multinationals Export Human Rights" *Foreign Affairs* 77 (2): 7-12
2. Seidman (2007) "Social Labels, Child Labor, and Monitoring in the Indian Carpet Industry" in *Beyond the Boycott: Labor Rights, Human Rights and Transnational Activism*, pp. 72-101.

Topic 9: Humanitarian Intervention

Monday 11/5

1. Power (2002) "Rwanda: 'Mostly in a Listening Mode'" in *A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide* pp. 326-389

Wednesday 11/7

1. Annan (1999) "Two Concepts of Sovereignty". *The Economist* September 18 1999.
2. Valentino (2011) "The True Costs of Humanitarian Intervention: The Hard Truth About a Noble Notion." *Foreign Affairs* 90 (6): 60-73.
3. Evans (2006) "From Humanitarian Intervention to the Responsibility to Protect". *Wisconsin International Law Journal* 24 (3): 703-722.

Topic 10: Reflections on the Human Rights Movement

Friday 11/9

1. Kennedy (2002) "The International Human Rights Movement: Part of the Problem?" *Harvard Human Rights Journal* 15: 101-125.
2. Mutua (2001) "Savages, Victims, and Saviors: The Metaphor of Human Rights." *Harvard International Law Journal* 42 (1): 201-245.

Second short paper due Sunday November 11 at 5:00pm

Monday 11/12

Catch-up session - no assigned reading.
Final Exam assigned.

Final take-home exam due Monday November 19 at 5:00pm