International Human Rights is designed to introduce students with the major ideas, theories, and concepts that help us understand the central themes, issues, and policies in the formulation and implementation of international human rights policies. The fundamental aim of this course is to equip students with the conceptual tools necessary to understand the forces, processes, and actors that shape the international environment in which human rights policies are created, enforced, and violated. As such, this course will provide the student with a sufficient background to develop a broader understanding of international human rights.

**Core Objective 12.** This course is designed to satisfy Silver Core Objective 12: Ethics. CO 12 requires students to evaluate the ethical principles in application of specialized knowledge, results of research, creative expression, or design processes. Additionally, this Core Objective requires students to demonstrate an ability to assess their own ethical values and the social contexts of problems, recognize ethical issues in a variety of settings, consider how ethical principles may be applied to ethical dilemmas, and consider the ramifications of various actions. International Human Rights requires students to become familiar with the major ideas, theories, and concepts that help us understand the central themes, issues, and policies in the formulation and implementation of international human rights policies. Such a familiarity includes consideration and the development of understanding of the forces, processes, and actors that shape the international environment in which human rights policies are created, enforced, and violated. Thus, this course requires students to identify and assess ethical values, including their own, and to evaluate the social contexts of problems, recognize ethical issues in a variety of settings, consider how ethical principles may be applied to ethical dilemmas, and consider the ramifications of various actions.

**Student Learning Objectives.** There are also eleven (11) main learning goals for this course.

Students will be able to:

1. Define the nature of human rights.
2. Understand the differences between positive and negative rights and why they are important to the understanding the scope of human rights. (CO12)
3. Identify how and why human rights are violated and when we know they are being violated.
4. Understand the relationship between economics and human rights and how globalization affects that relationship.
5. Define women’s rights and understand why women’s rights are seen by scholars and practitioners as a “special case” of human rights.
6. Develop an understanding of the conditions that women face that present extraordinary violations of their rights as human beings. (CO12)
7. Understand how religion affects human rights and particularly the rights of women. (CO12)
8. Understand the relationship between widespread political violence and women’s rights. (CO12)
9. Begin to understand how human rights factor into the foreign policies of states. (CO12)
10. Understand how the events of September 11th changed the international dynamics of human rights policies around the world.
11. Understand how the War on Terror has reshaped human rights practices.

Graduate students are expected to complete all assignments in a more in-depth manner than undergraduate students and thus, their work will be evaluated based on higher standards. To this end, graduate students may be assigned additional readings not applicable to undergraduates. Graduate students will also be expected to attend one (1) additional class meeting per month with the professor in order to discuss and evaluate readings and assignments in a seminar setting.

Assessment. To determine student accomplishment linked to the stated SLOs and intentions of Core Objective 12, student assignments will be assessed not just for a class grade, but also in terms of the effectiveness of writing and use of analytical techniques. In particular, student work will be assessed as to its ability to effectively analyze international human rights, comparing and contrasting across multiple systems.

Required Texts. There are three (3) required texts for this course:

In addition to these texts, there are supplemental readings listed on the syllabus. Students will have access to these as electronic media.

Additional readings for graduate students are noted as such in the syllabus and graduate students should also acquire:

Course Requirements. The course requirements for undergraduates consist of one (1) group poster and paper project worth 35% of the total course grade, two (2) exams collectively worth 50% of the total course grade, and participation in class worth 15% of the total course grade. Graduate students’ requirements will consist of participation in class, a midterm exam, a final exam, and an individual research paper, each of which is worth 25% of the total course grade.

Students are expected to read assigned materials prior to each class meeting.

Grades and Marks. Final grades for the semester shall employ the plus (+) and minus (-) system and shall be based upon the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94% to 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90% to 93.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87% to 89.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84% to 86.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80% to 83.99%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
University Policies and Resources. University policies concerning accommodations for students with disabilities, plagiarism, and classroom decorum are in effect and dealt with extensively on the University webpage and through multiple university documents, which students should access.

Statement of Disability Services: "Any student with a disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with the Disability Resource Center (Pennington Student Achievement Center, Suite 230) as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations."

Statement on Academic Dishonesty: "Cheating, plagiarism or otherwise obtaining grades under false pretenses constitute academic dishonesty according to the code of this university. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and penalties can include filing a final grade of "F"; reducing the student's final course grade one or two full grade points; awarding a failing mark on the coursework in question; or requiring the student to retake or resubmit the coursework. For more details, see the University of Nevada, Reno General Catalog."

Plagiarism. Academic honesty is required and plagiarism will result in failure of the assignment and possibly the course. All the work you submit must be your own and be written exclusively for this class. Using someone else’s words or ideas without giving them credit is plagiarism and is a serious violation of academic honesty policies. Any ideas, direct quotations, or paraphrasing that you borrow from other sources must be properly documented. If you plagiarize any part of an assignment or cheat on any portion of an exam, you will receive a zero (0) and may fail the course. Students caught plagiarizing more than once will be expelled from the class and will receive a grade of “F” for the semester.

Academic Standards. Cheating, plagiarism, or otherwise obtaining grades under false pretenses constitutes academic dishonesty according to the code of this University. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and penalties can including cancelling of a student’s enrollment without a grade, giving an “F” for the course, or giving an “F” for the assignment. For more details, see the University of Nevada, Reno General Catalog.

Statement on Audio and Video Recording. Surreptitious or covert video-taping of class or unauthorized audio recording of class is prohibited by law and by Board of Regents policy. This class may be videotaped or audio recorded only with the written permission of the instructor. In order to accommodate students with disabilities, some students may have been given permission to record class lectures and discussions. Therefore, students should understand that their comments during class may be recorded.
The University of Nevada, Reno is committed to providing a safe learning and work environment for all. If you believe you have experienced discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, or stalking, whether on or off campus, or need information related to immigration concerns, please contact the University's Equal Opportunity & Title IX office at 775-784-1547. Resources and interim measures are available to assist you. For more information, please visit: https://www.unr.edu/equal-opportunity-title-ix.

**Academic Success Services.** Your student fees cover usage of the Math Center (www.unr.edu/mathcenter or 775-784-4433), the Tutoring Center (www.unr.edu/tutoring-center or 775-784-6801), and the University Writing Center (www.unr.edu/writing-center or 775-784-6030). These centers support your classroom learning; it is your responsibility to take advantage of their services. Keep in mind that seeking help outside of the class is the sign of a responsible and successful student.

**COURSE TOPICS AND READINGS**

**Week 1:** What are Human Rights?
- Donnelly, chapter 1
- Mayer, chapter 1

*Graduate Student Readings*
- Pogge, Introduction and chapter 1

**Week 2:** The Norms, Extent, and Scope of Human Rights: The Nature of Negative and Positive Rights
- Donnelly, chapters 2 and 5

*Graduate Student Readings*
- Pogge, chapter 2

**Week 3:** The Norms, Extent, and Scope of Human Rights: Universality and Relativism
- Donnelly, chapters 6 and 7
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (WebCampus)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (WebCampus)
- Geneva Conventions (WebCampus)

**Week 4:** The Violation of Human Rights: When and What Rights are Violated and How do we Know?
- Donnelly, chapter 11
Graduate Student Readings

Week 5: Understanding Positive Rights
Donnelly, chapters 3 and 4
Sen, chapters 1-4

Graduate Student Reading
Pogge, chapters 5-7

Week 6: Understanding Positive Rights, continued

Week 7: “Globalization,” the Liberal Economic Order, and Global Inequality
Sen, chapters 5-7 and 9-10

Graduate Student Readings
Pogge, chapter 8-10

Week 8: The Foundations of Women’s Rights
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (Webcampus)

Graduate Student Readings
Week 9: Religion, Human Rights, and Women’s Rights
Mayer, chapters 3-7

Week 10: The Rights of Sexual Minorities
Mayer, chapters 8-9
What’s in a name? Chelsea Manning and Muhammad Ali (WebCampus)

Week 11: Human Rights and Foreign Policy

Week 12: Human Rights and Foreign Policy, continued

Week 13: Student Presentations

Week 14: Student Presentations