

University of Waterloo  
Department of Political Science  
Winter 2010

**PSCI 658**  
**HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE GLOBALIZED WORLD**

T 9:30 - 12:20  
EV1 225

Professor Tanya Korovkin  
HH 301, ext. 32143  
tkorovki@uwaterloo.ca  
office hours: M,W,F 2:30-3:30

---

**Description**

The course is a study of international and local responses to human rights abuses in the contexts of economic globalization and proliferation of armed violence. It examines major debates on international human rights. It also discusses specific categories of human rights and explores human rights situations in particular countries. The focus is on the indivisibility of human rights and the growth of transnational civic activism.

The course starts with an analysis of the origins of human rights norms, obstacles to their implementation, controversies surrounding the principle of universalism, and the rise of a global economic justice movement. We then proceed to the discussion of fundamental social/economic and status-based rights. Topics include: labor and community rights, the rights to food and health, children's and women's rights. The human rights agenda in conflict and post-conflict situations (the rights of refugees, R2P, transitional justice) is also addressed. The course ends with a brief discussion of ethical dilemmas confronted by rights advocates.

**Format**

Seminar

**Requirements**

*Oral presentations and participation in class discussion*

Each student is expected to do two short oral presentations. The presentations should be based on some of the course readings and on independent research. Each presenter should prepare a handout (1 or 2 pages, single-spaced) with the statement of central argument, summary of major points (please use references to the sources), and two or three questions for discussion. All students are expected to do the required readings and participate in the class discussion.

## *Research proposal and research paper*

Students are required to write a research proposal and a research paper on one of the topics covered in the course (or related topic). The research proposals (5 pages double-spaced) are due February 9, in class. A proposal should include: (i) a brief outline of the research problem with references to the sources, (ii) your own research questions and tentative central argument; (iii) the proposed structure of the paper; and (iv) preliminary bibliography. Research papers (appx 15 pages, double-spaced, font size 12pt) are due March 30, in class. Late proposal/papers submitted without a medical certificate and proposals/papers that substantially exceed the size limit will be penalized. Penalty for late proposals and papers: 3 points per day.

### **Evaluation**

Oral presentations	15%
Participation in class discussion	15%
Research proposal	10%
Research paper	60%

### **Recommended texts**

Philip Alston and Mary Robinson (eds.), *Human Rights and Development: Towards Mutual Reinforcement*, Oxford University Press, 2005.

George Andreopoulos et al. (eds.), *Non-State Actors in the Human Rights Universe*, Kumarian Press, 2006.

David Forsythe, *Human Rights in International Relations*, Cambridge University Press, 2006.

Shale Horowitz and Albert Schnabel (eds.), *Human Rights and Societies in Transition*, UN University Press, 2004,

### **Topics and readings**

#### **Jan. 5. Introduction**

#### **Jan. 12. Human rights - norms and realities**

Human rights origins – Western and non-Western views; universalism and cultural relativism – towards a cross-cultural dialogue? human rights and state sovereignty – conflicting or complementary concerns?

#### Required readings

- \* Forsythe, ch.1 (Introduction) and ch.2 (Establishing Human Rights Standards).
- \* Horowitz and Schnabel, ch.3 (Universalism and Cultural Relativism: Lessons for Transitional States).

#### Additional readings

- \* P. Zeleza and P. McConnaughay (eds.), *Human Rights, The Rule of Law, and*

*Development in Africa*, Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004, ch.1 (Restraining Universalism: Africanist Perspectives on Cultural Relativism in the Human Rights Discourse).

\* T. Dunne and N. Wheeler, *Human Rights in Global Politics*, Cambridge University Press, 2004, ch.4 (Non-Ethnocentric Universalism).

\* J. Conlon, "Sovereignty vs. Human Rights or Sovereignty and Human Rights?" *Race and Class*, 46 (1), 2004, pp.75-90.

### **Jan. 19. Global economic justice and civic activism.**

Extreme poverty – positive and negative duties; transnational civic activism and economic justice movement – strategies, achievements, and limitations.

#### Required readings

\* J. Mandle, *Global Justice*, Polity, 2006, ch.7 (Poverty and Development).

\* P. Gready (ed.), *Fighting for Human Rights*, Routledge, 2004, Introduction and ch.2 (Debt Cancellation and Civil Society).

#### Additional readings

\* Mandle, the rest of the book.

\* M. Reitberger, "Poverty, Negative Duties and the Global Institutional Order," *Politics, Philosophy & Economics*, 7 (4), 2008.

\*P. Grenier, "Jubilee 2000: Laying the Foundations for a Social Movement," in J. Clark, *Globalizing Civic Engagement*, Earthscan, 2003.

### **Jan. 26. Community and labor rights**

MNCs and cheap labor – promise and problems; accountability - to whom? conflicts over natural resources – potential and limitations of the voluntary approach.

#### Required readings

\*Andreopoulos, ch.4 (Realizing Rights in the Work Place), ch. 5 (Multinational Corporations as Non-State Actors in the Human Rights Arena), and ch. 6 (Royal Dutch Shell: How Deep the Changes?)

#### Additional readings

\* O. De Schutter, *Transnational Corporations and Human Rights*, Hart, 2006, ch. 4 (Competing for Foreign Direct Investment through the Creation of EPZs); ch.6 (Corporate Codes of Conduct and the Human Rights Accountability of TNCs); ch.8 (The Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources in the DRC).

\* D. Arnold and L. Hartman, "Worker Rights and Low Wage Industrialization: How to Avoid Sweatshops" and B. Powell, "In Reply to Sweatshop Sophistries," *Human Rights Quarterly* v. 28, 2006, 676-700 and 1031-1042.

### **Feb. 2. Right to food**

Food supplies and entitlements; faminogenic policies and complex humanitarian emergencies – towards a criminalization of famine?

#### Required readings

- \* S. Devereux (ed.), *The New Famines: Why Famines Persist in an Era of Globalization*, Routledge, 2007, Introduction; ch. 3 (The Criminalization of Mass Starvations: From Natural Disaster to Crime against Humanity), and ch.11 (Increased Rural Vulnerability in the Era of Globalization: Conflict and Famine in Sudan during the 1990s).

#### Additional readings:

- \* B. Guha-Khasnobis et. al (eds.), *Food Insecurity, Vulnerability and Human Rights Failure*, Palgrave, 2007, part III (Hunger as Entitlement Failure: The Right to Food).
- \* O. Rubin, "The Niger Famine: A Collapse of Entitlements and Democratic Responsiveness," *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 44 (3), 2009.
- \* D. Marcus, "Famine Crimes in International Law," *American Journal of International Law*, 97 (2), 2003.

### **Feb. 9. Right to health. Research proposals due.**

International campaign against AIDS - Southern governments, civic actors, external donors; patents and access to essential drugs – pharmaceuticals and WTO.

#### Required readings

- \*A. Patterson, *The Politics of AIDS in Africa*, Lynne Rienner, 2006, ch.2 (The African State and the AIDS Pandemic) and ch.5 (External Donors and Political Commitments).
- \* Andreopoulos, *Non-State Actors*, ch.10 (Affordable and Accessible Drugs for Developing Countries: Recent Developments).

#### Additional readings

- \* B. Sleaf, "The Most Debilitating Discrimination of All' - Civil Society's Campaign for Access to Treatment for AIDS" in P. Gready (ed.), *Fighting for Human Rights*, Routledge, 2004.
- \* Alston and Robinson, *Human Rights and Development*, ch.5, Social Rights and Economics: Claims to Health Care and Education in Developing Countries.
- \* S. Joseph, "Pharmaceutical Corporations and Access to Drugs: The 'Fourth Wave' of Corporate Human Rights Scrutiny," *Human Rights Quarterly*, 25 (2), 2003.

### **Feb. 16 - no classes, reading week**

### **Feb 23. Rights of the child**

Education, poverty, and child labor; children, armed violence and drug trade; alternative conceptions of childhood; potential autonomy?

#### Required readings

- \* Alston and Robinson, ch.9 (Child Labour, Education, and Children's Rights).
- \* L. Dowdney, *Children of the Drug Trade: A Case Study of Children in Organized Violence in Rio De Janeiro*, 7 Letras, 2003 (online); part 4 (Organized Armed Violence); and part 5 (Local Solutions).
- \* K. Bentley, "Can There Be Any Universal Children's Rights?" *International Journal of Human Rights*, 9 (1) 2005.

### Additional readings

- \* Alston and Robinson, ch. 10 (Child Labour, Education, and the Principle of Non-Discrimination) and ch. 11 (Human rights and public goods: Education as a Fundamental Right in India).
- \* M. Schechter and M. Bochenek, "Working to Eliminate Human Rights Abuses of Children: A Cross-National Comparative Study," *Human Rights Quarterly*, 30 (3), 2008.
- \* Dowdney, *Children of the Drug Violence*, the rest of the book.

### March 2. Women's rights

Land rights, human trafficking, sex trade, domestic violence - causal factors; international and local strategies; women as protagonists?

### Required readings

- \* A. An-Na'im (ed.), *Cultural Transformation and Human Rights in Africa*, Zed, 2002, ch.4 (Mediating Culture and Human Rights in Favor of Land Rights in Africa) and ch.5 (Are Local Norms and Practices Fences or Pathways).
- \* B. Ghosh, "Trafficking in Women and Children in India: Nature, Dimensions and Strategies for Prevention," *International Journal of Human Rights*, 13 (5), 2009.
- \* Brysk, ch. 2 (Tourism, Sex Work and Women's Rights in the Dominican Republic).

### Additional readings

- \* Alston and Robinson, ch.7 (The Development Impact of Gender Equality in Land Rights) and ch.8 (Women's Property Rights Violations in Kenya).
- \* S. Hemingway, "The Impact of Tourism on the Human Rights of Women in South East Asia," *International Journal of Human Rights*, 8 (3), 2004.
- \* K. Amirthalangam, "Women's Rights, International Norms, and Domestic Violence: Asian Perspectives," *Human Rights Quarterly*, 27 (2), 2005.

### March 9. Rights of refugees

Refugees crisis - from asylum to containment and repatriation? protracted refugee situations; state security vs. human security perspectives on forced displacement.

### Required readings

- \* T. Dunne and N. Wheeler (eds.), *Human Rights and Global Politics*, Cambridge University Press, 2004, ch.9 (Refugees: A Global Human Rights Crisis).
- \* UNHCR, *The State of the World's Refugees 2006* (online), ch.5 (Protracted Refugee Situations).
- \* S. Schmeidl, "(Human) Security Dilemmas: Long-term Implications of the Afghan Refugee Crisis," *Third World Quarterly*, v.23, no.1, 2002.

### Additional readings

- \* E. Newman and J. van Selm (eds.), *Refugees and Forced Displacement: International Security*, UN University Press, 2003, ch. 3 (Human Security and the Protection of Refugees) and ch.9 (Reconciling Control and Compassion? Human Smuggling and the Right to Asylum).
- \* S. Lischer, *Dangerous Sanctuaries: Refugee Camps, Civil War, and the Dilemmas of Humanitarian Aid*, Cornell, 2002, ch.3 (Afghan Refugees) and ch.6 (Collateral Damage).

## **March 16. Human rights, humanitarian intervention, and R2P**

Military responses to gross violations of human rights – international and local dynamics; from humanitarian intervention to responsibility to protect?

### Required readings

- \* A. Brysk, *Globalization and Human Rights*, University of California Press, 2002, ch.10 (Humanitarian Intervention: Global Enforcement of Human Rights?).
- \* T. Gizelis and K. Kozek, “Why International Interventions Succeed or Fail: The Role of Local Participation,” *Cooperation and Conflict*, (40) 4, 2005.
- \* Horowitz and Schnabel, ch. 7 (International Efforts to Protect Human Rights in Societies: Rights, Duty, or Politics?).

### Additional readings

- \* E. Heinze, “Humanitarian Intervention: Morality and International Law on Intolerable Violations of Human Rights,” *International Journal of Human Rights*, 8(4), 2004.
- \* B. Pouligny, *Peace Operations Seen from Below: UN Missions and Local People*, Kumarian Press, 2006, ch.4 (‘Intervention’ and ‘Sovereignty’ – The View from Below).
- \* R. Thakur, “In Defence of the Responsibility to Protect,” *The International Journal of Human Rights*, 7 (3), 2003.
- \* *Civil Society Perspectives on the Responsibility to Protect*, 2003 (online).

## **March 23. Transitional justice**

TRCs - in search of truth and reconciliation; ICC - between peace and retribution; legitimacy and effectiveness.

### Required readings

- \* P. Hayner, *Unspeakable Truths: Facing the Challenge of Truth Commissions*, Routledge, 2001, ch.2 (Confronting Past Crimes), ch.3 (Why a Truth Commission?) and ch. 7 (Truth versus Justice).
- \* M. Glasius, “What is Global Justice and Who Decides? Civil Society and Victim Responses to the ICC’s First Investigations,” *Human Rights Quarterly*, 31 (2), 2009.

### Additional readings

- \* L. Laplante and K. Theidon, “Truth with Consequences: Justice and Reparations in Post-Truth Commission Peru,” *Human Rights Quarterly*, 29 (1), 2007.
- \* T. Kelsall, “Truth, Lies, Ritual: Preliminary Reflections on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Sierra Leone,” *Human Rights Quarterly* 27 (2), pp.361-191, 2005.
- \* Forthye, ch.4 (Transitional Justice: Criminal Courts and Alternatives).
- \* V. Peskin, “Caution and Confrontation in the International Criminal Court’s Pursuit of Accountability in Uganda and Sudan,” *Human Rights Quarterly*, 31 (3), 2009.

## **March 30. Conclusion. *Papers due.***

### Required readings

- \* D. Bell and J. Carens, “The Ethical Dilemmas of International Human Rights and Humanitarian NGOs: Reflection on a Dialogue Between Practitioners and Theorists,” *Human Rights Quarterly*, 26 (2), 2004.