

POL SCI 3Y03 HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIZATION

Winter 2020

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Lecture: Thursday 12:30 am–14:20 pm

Location: BSB 119
Office: KTH 542
Office Hours: Thursday 14:30-16:30 pm

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Course Description

The course examines the meanings and interpretations of notions such as democracy, democratic politics, democratic transition, and liberalism, on the one hand, and their complex relationship to an evolving universal human rights culture on the other hand. It critically reviews conventional views on the origins, nature, and scope of Western liberal democratic political regimes, as well as Western claims about the universality of human rights. It also discusses double standard approaches used by Western democracies in their 'measurement' of non-Western regimes' commitment to democracy and human rights. At the same time, it challenges the latter's claims that democracy and human rights ought to be rejected as a Western phenomenon inimical to their "own cultures". The discussion on democratic governance and human rights addresses philosophical, political, economic, and historical perspectives, which contrast religious and natural law arguments with rational, scientific, and analytical approaches. The course assesses *inter alia* an expanding theoretical body on democracy and human rights; a corresponding burgeoning international bureaucracy; democracy, human rights, and capitalism; the 'naturalization' of torture; new instances of genocide; indigenous peoples' persistent oppression, and 'new' incomplete forms of justice in post-conflict societies.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course students are expected to be able to:

- Critically re-examine Western views about democracy and respect for human rights in Western and non-Western contexts
- Critically assess non-democratic regimes' pseudo rationalizations of human rights
- Critically evaluate the role of international human rights organizations
- Critically assess the current political atmosphere and the corresponding weakening of a democratic and human rights culture

Required Materials and Texts

The following textbook has been ordered through the McMaster University Bookstore: Goodhart, Michael (2016), *Human Rights. Politics and Practice*. Third edition. Oxford University Press: New York. In addition, the following journals are available online and can be downloaded through the McMaster Library. They can assist students in the preparation of the research paper, and in examining in greater detail some of the issues discussed in class:

[Harvard Human Rights Journal](#)

[Human Rights Law Review](#)

[Journal of Human Rights](#)

[Journal of Human Rights Practice](#)

[The International Journal of Human Rights](#)

Class Format

This is a lecture course. Lectures are an important part of the learning/teaching two-way process. Required readings provide a general background to issues discussed in class; they are complemented by the instructor's additional perspectives. Questions pertaining to required readings are welcome in class, tutorials, and during office hours.

Assignments, i.e. research paper and examinations must reflect familiarity with readings, and class and tutorial discussions. Relevant films may be shown in class.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Mid-term examination worth 30 %
2. Research Paper worth 30 % (5 % + 25 %)
3. Final Examination worth 30 %
4. Tutorial participation worth 10 %

Course Evaluation – Details

Mid-term examination (30%), February 27

This mid-term examination will be held in class on 27 February 2020. All required readings and class and tutorial discussions must be used in answering the corresponding questions. No aids allowed. Examination has two parts: part 1 asks to identify, explain the meaning, and discuss the significance of 3 notions or concepts discussed in class and readings. This part is worth 60 %, with each notion worth up to 20 points. Part 2 is a compulsory essay question worth 40 % of the examination. Duration of the examination is 1 hour and 50 minutes.

Research paper (30%), March 19

This research paper is due in class, on 19 March 2020. It should examine and discuss one of the topics listed below by using supplementary, primary and/or secondary, reading materials relevant to the argument. The essay must not be solely based on the course's required readings. This assignment has two components, and both will be reflected in the grade assigned to it. First, students must submit an outline of the research that includes the research question, hypothesis or argument, evidence, causes, and preliminary bibliography by Thursday, 30 January 2020 for the instructor's or teaching assistant's approval and feedback. This outline must be about three-to-four double-space typed pages. It will be worth 5 % of the assignment. Next, students must submit the fully edited final version of their research paper, including all preliminary work with the instructor's and teaching assistants' comments. Papers can be submitted early. Paper is worth 25% of the assignment.

Somewhere between 12 to 15 pages, not including title page and bibliographical references would be an adequate length for this essay. Follow the APA or the Chicago Manual of Style guidelines for the writing of academic papers. Standard use of bibliographical references is a must. The paper must be typed; have a title page; all pages

numbered; lines double-spaced; and wide margins (standard word processor format) left for comments. An electronic copy of the Outline and the final paper (Word format) must be submitted at the same time, addressed to the instructor at gallegui@mcmaster.ca, and the respective teaching assistant. The outline and final paper should include a statement by the student that the paper is original and that no plagiarism has been committed in its development and production. Academic offences (plagiarism and else) will be penalized in accordance with the regulations set by the University Senate.

Topics: Choose one of the topics listed below in preparing the Outline of the Research Paper. These are broadly stated, open-ended suggested areas of research. Proceed by designing your own research question (main and secondary ones), stated in question form. Follow that with a declaratory sentence that states the objectives of your research; indicate the preliminary evidence you have to support your research question; include probable causes of the problem; lastly, add a tentative bibliography of the works you intend to use in the research. Approval and feedback from the instructor and/or teaching assistant must be obtained before embarking on the research and writing of this assignment (ref.: outline due on Thursday, 30 January 2020):

1. Right-wing, conservative political regimes' record on inventing, accepting, and entrenching individual, social, cultural, and environmental human rights is poorer than liberal or left-of-centre political regimes.
2. Non-Western rulers' claims that Western standards of human rights are inimical to their societies and cultures are to be rejected as self-serving and contrary to the universality of human rights.
3. Capitalism, democracy, and human rights are irreconcilable in theory and practice.
4. Freedom of religion is freedom to practice intolerance towards other peoples.
5. Special interest groups' entitlement claims have diluted the universal meaning of human rights.
6. Endless wars, whether international or domestic, are the greatest threats to democracy and human rights.
7. State-sponsored terrorism is a major threat to individual and collective human rights.
8. So-called Humanitarian Intervention by Western powers, and their Third World surrogates, is a major threat to human rights.
9. Canada's claims to be a paragon in the international human rights stage are not

matched by historical and contemporary evidentiary facts.

10. The enhancement of a positive human rights culture can only come about with a forceful application of international law by independent international organizations.

Final examination (30%) April 2020

The course final examination will be held during the University-run final examination period in April 2020. All required readings and class and tutorial discussions must be used in answering the corresponding questions. No aids allowed. Examination has three parts: Part 1 is worth 30 % of the examination and asks to identify, explain the meaning, and discuss the significance of 3 notions or concepts discussed in class and readings. Part 2 is worth 40 % of the examination and is a compulsory essay question. Part 3 is worth 30 % of the examination and asks students to choose from two essay questions. Duration of the examination is 2 hours and 30 minutes.

Tutorial participation (10%)

This assignment is worth 10 % of the final course grade. It comprises (1) regular attendance, and (2) active engagement in the discussion of readings, lectures, and assignments as determined by the Teaching Assistants. Grade for this assignment is at the Instructor's discretion. No substitution assignments for missing tutorials will be arranged. Only one (1) absence will not be considered in the determination of the tutorial grade participation.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1: 9 January

Instructor's introductory remarks. The course's objectives, organization, and evaluation.

Week 2: 16 January

State of the Art in the Human Rights field: Progress and regression in the evolution of human rights and democracy seen through an examination of the two 9/11 events that shook the international community.

Required readings

Goodhart, Michael, "Introduction: Human Rights in Politics and Practice" (1-8); Chandler, David, Chapter 7: "Contemporary Critiques of Human Rights" (110-126); Landman, Todd & Larissa Kersten, Chapter 8: "Measuring and Monitoring Human Rights" (127-144).

Lecture by the instructor.

Week 3: 23 January

Conceptualizing the meaning of democracy and human rights. Are democracy and human rights complementary or oppositional? Human rights and politics.

Required readings

Cardenas, Sonia, Chapter 5: "Human Rights in Comparative Politics" (77-92); Short, Damien, Chapter 6: "Sociological and Anthropological Approaches" (93-109).

Lecture by the instructor.

Week 4: 30 January

Historical origins of Human Rights. The Magna Carta; the American and French Revolution; the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The emergence of the Individual. The rise of Capitalism. The Reformation Movement. The rise of the Nation State. The consolidation of historically particularistic rights into universal rights.

Required readings

Langlois, Anthony, Chapter 1: "Normative and Theoretical Foundations of Human Rights" (11-27), and Fazaeli, Roja, Chapter 10: "Human Rights and Religion" (163-181).

Lecture by the instructor.

Recommended readings

Hobbes, Thomas: "On the Natural Condition of Mankind as Concerning their Felicity and Misery," from *Leviathan* (ch.13).

Locke, John: "A Letter Concerning Toleration."

Marx, Karl: *The Communist Manifesto*; On the Materialist Conception of History: see: Preface to *A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy*.

Week 5: 6 February

The expansion of democracy and human rights in the Western World: From the working classes' struggles for democracy to liberal democratic regimes to the rise and fall of the Welfare State. Capitalism, Democracy, and Human Rights: Can they be reconciled?

Required readings

Gladius, Marlies & Doutje Lettinga, Chapter 9: "Global Civil Society and Human Rights" (147-162); Richards, David & Ronald Gelleny, Chapter 13: "Economic Globalization and Human Rights" (216-234); and Davenport, Christian, Chapter 14: "Political Democracy and State Repression" (235-254).

Lecture by the instructor.

Week 6: 13 February

Democratic transitions in the post-Cold War period. The adoption of the democratic

method (Joseph Schumpeter, the Pluralist School) by developing countries. The limits of conditional definitions.

Required readings

Dunne, Tim & Marianne Hanson, Chapter 3: "Human Rights in International Relations" (44-59); and Smith, Rhona, Chapter 4: "Human Rights in International Law" (60-76).

Lecture by the instructor.

Recommended readings

Dahl, Robert (1971), *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Schumpeter, Joseph (1942), *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy*.

Huntington, Samuel (1991). *The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century* (Norman, OK: The University of Oklahoma Press).

Week 7: 17-21 February Mid-term Recess

Week 8: 27 February: In-class Mid-Term Examination (worth 30 %)

Week 9: 5 March

Development, Modernization, and Human Rights. The Fallacy of the complementarity. The Optimistic Equation. The Clash of Civilizations.

Required readings

Fukuda-Parr, Sakiko, Chapter 12: "Human Rights and Politics and Development" (198-215); Barry, John & Kerri Woods, Chapter 23: "The Environment" (405-420).

Lecture by the instructor.

Recommended readings

Huntington, Samuel (1996). *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of the World Order* (New York: NY: Simon and Shuster).

Huntington, Samuel. (1987) "The Goals of Development," in *Understanding Political Development*, edited by Samuel Huntington and Myron Weiner (Boston: The Little, Brown and Company).

Week 9: 12 March

The end of the Cold War; new wave of democratization; old and new conflicts and the new wave of human rights abuses.

Required readings

Strauss, Scott, Chapter 20: "Genocide and Human Rights" (351-369).

Lecture by the instructor.

Week 10: 19 March

Western Intervention: A blessing or a curse?

Required reading

Kuperman, Alan, Chapter 21: "Humanitarian Intervention" (370-388).

Lecture by the instructor.

Week 11: 26 March

Torture and other human rights abuses: a peculiar way of promoting Western values to non-Western societies.

Required reading

Schulz, William, Chapter 15: "Torture" (255-272).

Lecture by the instructor.

Week 12: 2 April

Do Reconciliation and Truth Commissions strengthen or weaken emerging democracies?
The use of selective approaches in the punishment of human rights abuses.

Required reading

Quinn, Joanna, Chapter 22: "Transitional Justice" (389-404).

Lecture by the instructor.

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

Outline of Research Paper and Research Paper must be submitted in class on 30 January and 19 March 2020, respectively. The Instructor and Teaching Assistants assume no responsibility whatsoever for assignments left under office doors, faxed, or texted (none of which is advised) or delivered in any other form than in class. Final

version of research paper must include the original outline with the teaching assistants' and instructor's comments. Each submission must be accompanied by an electronic copy (Word format) addressed to gallegui@mcmaster.ca, as well as the Teaching Assistant's McMaster e-mail address. Each submission must also include the following statement on plagiarism: *"I (name of student) attest that this work is original, and that no plagiarism has been committed in its preparation and delivery. (signature)"*

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

Late Assignments

Late submission of Outline of research paper will be penalized with one-point deduction for each day of delay. Late submission of research paper will be penalized with one sub-letter grade deduction for each working day of delay, up to a maximum of one week (7 days from the due date). After one week, the Instructor must refuse to accept a late paper unless proper medical certification stating a prolonged inability to fulfil academic responsibilities is provided. Medical notes will be verified for authenticity. Marks for papers accepted by the Instructor after one week of lateness will be dropped by one letter grade. Students must talk to the Instructor with anticipation if they believe they will need a legitimate extension. Teaching Assistants cannot grant an extension.

A make-up examination for the missed mid-term will be granted only for legitimate reasons, at the Instructor's discretion. No make-up examination will be granted after two weeks from the date of the mid-term exam.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF). This is an online, self-reporting tool for students to report absences that last up to three (3) days, and to request accommodation for any missed academic work that is worth less than 25 % of the final grade. This tool cannot be used during any final examination period. It is the prerogative

of the Instructor to determine the appropriate relief for missed term work. Students may submit a maximum of one request per term. The form should be filled immediately when the student is about to return to class after an absence. It is the student's responsibility to follow up with the instructor immediately (within two working days) about the nature of the accommodation. Students who have been absent for more than three (3) days, have missed academic work worth 25 %, or more, or exceed one request per term must see their Faculty Academic Advisor. Students will be required to provide supporting documentation and discuss arrangements in person with the instructor as well.

Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Turnitin.com

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). For more information please refer to the [Turnitin.com Policy](#).

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students requiring a RISO accommodation should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests