

**DEMOCRATIZATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS**  
**POLSCI 3Y03**  
**Winter 2023, Term 2**

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**Lecture:** Tuesday 10:30 pm–12:20 pm  
**Discussion:** Thursday 10:30-11:20

**Room:** LRW 1055  
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**Office Hours:** Tuesday 2:00-4:00 pm

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## **Course Description**

The course examines the meanings and interpretations of commonplace notions such as democracy, democratic politics, democratic transition, liberalism, and their complex relationship to the continuous development of a universal human rights culture. It reviews conventional views on the origins, nature, and scope of Western liberal democratic political regimes, as well as Western claims on the universality of human rights. It also discusses double standard approaches used by Western democracies in the 'measurement' of non-Western regimes' commitment to democracy and human rights. 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, from religious and natural law arguments to rational, scientific, and analytical approaches. The course assesses *inter alia* an expanding theoretical body on democracy and human rights; a 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 it is expected that students will 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 in their rejection of the universality 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 is available at the McMaster University Bookstore: Goodhart, Michael (2023), *Human Rights. Politics and Practice*. Fourth edition. Oxford University Press: New York. An electronic copy is available as well from Oxford University Press. 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 an in-person lecture course. Attending weekly lectures is an important part of the learning and teaching process. Required readings provide a general background to issues discussed in class and they are complemented and enhanced by the instructor's additional perspectives. Questions pertaining to required readings are welcome in class, discussions, and during office hours. Assignments, i.e. research paper and examinations must reflect familiarity with readings, and class lectures and discussions. Relevant films may be shown in class.

## **Course Evaluation – Overview**

1. Mid-term in-class examination worth 25 % held on 14 February 2023
2. Research Paper worth 35 % (5 % + 30 %) and due 16 March 2023
3. Final Examination worth 40 % during April 2023 Examination period.

## **Course Evaluation – Details**

### **In Class Mid-Term Examination (Worth 25 % of Course Grade)**

This in-class examination will be held on 14 February 2023. It will be 1:50 hour long. All required readings and class lecture and discussions must be used in answering the corresponding questions. No aids allowed. Examination has two parts: part 1 is worth 45 % of the exam, and it asks to identify, explain the meaning, and discuss the significance of 3 notions or concepts discussed in class and readings. Each notion is worth up to 15 points. Part 2 is a compulsory essay question worth 55 % of the examination.

### **Final Examination (Worth 40 % of Course Grade)**

This final examination will be held during the final examination period run by the University. It will be 2:30 hour long. All required readings and class lectures and discussions must be used in answering the corresponding questions. No aids allowed. Examination has three parts: part 1 is worth 30 % of the exam, and it asks to identify, explain the meaning, and discuss the significance of 3 notions or concepts discussed in class and readings. Each notion is worth 10 points. Part 2 is a compulsory essay question worth 40 % of the examination. Part 3 is an essay question worth 30 % of the exam, and students are given a choice between two questions.

### **Research paper (Worth 35%: 5 % + 30 % of Course Grade)**

This research paper is due on 16 March, 2023. It must be submitted electronically and addressed to [gallequi@mcmaster.ca](mailto:gallequi@mcmaster.ca). The paper should examine and discuss one of the topics listed below by using supplementary, primary and/or secondary sources, and academic sources 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 electronically submit an outline of the intended research that includes the research question, preliminary hypothesis or

argument, evidence, causes, and preliminary bibliography by Thursday, February 2, 2023, for the instructor's approval and feedback. The electronic outline must be addressed to [gallegui@mcmaster.ca](mailto:gallegui@mcmaster.ca). This outline must be about three-to-four double-space typed pages. It is worth 5 % of the course grade. Next, students must submit the fully edited final version of their research paper, including all preliminary work with the instructor's comments by 16 March 2023. Papers can be submitted early. Final paper is worth 30 % of the course grade.

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 addressed to the instructor at [gallegui@mcmaster.ca](mailto:gallegui@mcmaster.ca). The outline and final paper should include a statement by the student that the paper is original, and that no plagiarism was 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 to start the research process. No other topics will be allowed unless authorized by the Instructor. These are broadly stated, open-ended suggested areas of research. Proceed by designing your own research question (main and secondary ones), and state it in the form of a question (?). 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 and add a tentative bibliography of the works you intend to use in the research. Approval and feedback from the instructor must be obtained before embarking on the research and writing of this assignment (nb: outline due on Thursday, February 2, 2023):

1. Right-wing, conservative political regimes' record on inventing, respecting, promoting, 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 ought 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 religious intolerance as well as oppose other human rights.
5. Special interest groups' entitlement claims dilute and obfuscate the universal desire of "equality for all".
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. Humanitarian Intervention by Western powers, and their Third World surrogates, has become a major threat to human rights.
9. Canada's claims to be a paragon in the international human rights stage are hard to reconcile with 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 duly constituted international organizations.

## **Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings**

### **Week 1: 10 & 12 January**

Introductory remarks. Explaining the course's objectives, organization, evaluation, and main research paper assignment.

### **Week 2: 17 & 19 January (I)**

### **Week 3: 24 & 26 January (II)**

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

#### Required readings

Goodhart, Michael, "Introduction" (1-6) & Chapter 3: "The Politics of Human Rights" (49-70).

Smith, Rhona, Chapter 2: "Human Rights in International Law" (27-48).

Lecture by the instructor.

### **Week 4: 31 & 2 February**

Conceptualizing the meaning of democracy and human rights. Democracy as an elusive concept. Human Rights definition. Are democracy and human rights complementary, oppositional, absolute or relative? Human rights and transactional politics.

#### Required readings

Ackerly, Brooke, Chapter 17: "Theory in Practice: Making Human Rights Claims in a Human Rights Way" (361-379).

Short, Damien. Chapter 6: "The Social Life of Human Rights" (113-134).

Lecture by the instructor.

**NOTE: Outline of the Research Paper is due 2 February**

**Week 5: 7 & 9 February**

Historical origins of Human Rights: The Magna Carta. The emergence of the concept and practice of the Individual: from the concrete to the abstract. The rise of Capitalism. The Reformation Movement. The rise of the Nation State. American and French Revolutions: Consolidation of historically particularistic rights into universal rights: from the concrete to the abstract. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Required readings

Langlois, Anthony, Chapter 1: "The Philosophical Foundations of Human Rights" (7-26).

Fazaeli, Roja, & Joel Hanisek Chapter 19: "Human Rights and Religion" (401-423).

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 6: 14 February: MID-TERM, IN CLASS, EXAMINATION WORTH 25 %.  
1:50 HOUR LONG**

**Week 7: 20-26 February. Mid-Term Recess. No classes held this week.**

**Week 8: 28 February & March 2**

Expansion of democracy and human rights in the Western World: From 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

Smith, Jackie, Chapter 16: "Social Movements and Human Rights" (343-360).

Davenport, Christian, Chapter 12: "Political Democracy and State Repression" (243-267).

Lecture by the instructor.

### **Week 9: 7 & 9 March**

Democratic transitions in the post-Cold War period. The un-critical adoption of the Western democratic method (Joseph Schumpeter, the Pluralist School) in developing countries. The limits of a conditional definition.

#### Required readings

Goodhart, Michael. Chapter 3: "The Politics of Human Rights" (49-70).

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 10: 14 & 16 March**

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

#### Required readings

Winkler, Inga T. & Matheus de Carvalho Hernandez. Chapter 21: "Human Rights and the UN Sustainable Development Goals" (443-461).

Baer, Madeline. Chapter 20: "The Human Right to Water" (424-442).

Atapattu, Sumudu, Chapter 14: "Human Rights and the Environment" (297-319).

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).

**NOTE: Research paper worth 30 % of course grade due this day by 11:59 pm.**



**Week 11: 21 & 23 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 8: "Genocide and Human Rights" (154-177).

Zivi, Karen, Chapter 7: "Human Rights Claiming as a Performative Practice" (135-153).

Lecture by the instructor.

**Week 12: 28 & 30 March**

Western Intervention: A blessing or a curse? Torture and other human rights abuses: a 'peculiar' way of promoting Western values to non-Western societies

Required reading

Kuperman, Alan, Chapter 9: "Humanitarian Intervention" (178-200).

Ibhawoh, Bonny, Chapter 5: "Imperialism and Human Rights" (92-112).

Lecture by the instructor.

**Week 13: 4, 6 & 11 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 10: "Transitional Justice" (201-220).

Lecture by the instructor.

## **Course Policies**

### **Submission of Assignments**

Outline of Research Paper and Research Paper must be submitted electronically on February 2, 2023 and March 16, 2023, respectively. The Instructor assumes no responsibility whatsoever for assignments left under office doors, faxed, or texted (none of which is advised) or delivered in any other form than electronically. Final version of research paper must include the original outline with the Instructor's comments. Each electronic submission (in Word format) must be addressed to [gallegui@mcmaster.ca](mailto:gallegui@mcmaster.ca). Each submission must also include the following statement on plagiarism (see above for text): *"I (name of student) attest that this work is original, and that no plagiarism or improper collaboration have been committed in its preparation and delivery. (student's electronic signature)"*.

### **Grades**

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

<b>MARK</b>	<b>GRADE</b>
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. Students will still need to submit this outline even if they received a grade of Zero (0) for being more than 5 days late. A late submission of the 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 may 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. Other courses' or work's responsibilities will not be accepted as legitimate excuses.

A make-up test for the missed mid-term examination will be granted only for legitimate reasons, and at the Instructor's discretion. No make-up examination will be granted after one week from the date of the missed exam. The weight of an assignment will not be changed on the account of a student's missing assignment.

### **Absences, Missed Work, Illness**

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work".

### **Courses with an On-Line Element**

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, 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 a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

### **Online Proctoring**

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

### **Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection**

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software.

**All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about [McMaster's use of Turnitin.com](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity) please go to [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

## Copyright and Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

## 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 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.

## Academic Integrity Statement

Students are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials they earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is a student's responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

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 behaviour 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. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

## **Conduct Expectations**

McMaster students have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

## **Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

## **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.

## **Extreme Circumstances**

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.).

Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.