Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Louise Buckingham  
Office Location: MH 508 
Email: Louise.Buckingham@sjsu.edu 
Office Hours: Mondays 10:15 am – 11:15 am 
Class Days/Time: 
Monday & Wednesday 9:00 am – 10:15 am 
Classroom: MH 520 
GE/SJSU Studies Category: Core Area D3

Course Description

This course is a lower division introduction to the history of human rights as a concept and body of international law, and to the complicated role of human rights in contemporary social justice campaigns.

This course is designed for students to explore questions such as:

* What are the origins of contemporary conceptions of human rights and justice? 
* What are the forms and expressions of human rights in international legal instruments? 
* How are human rights defined through international law? 
* What are some critical perspectives of human rights and are they valid? 
* What are some of the relationships between international human rights and social justice, global and local, discourse and practice? 
* Are “human rights” right today?

Course Format

This course is taught in class using a mix of traditional lectures, both assessable and non-assessable assignments and group or team based approach to learning. However, students are expected to also read and review materials, and ultimately to perform, individually.

Group or team based method facilitates much of the learning in class through students’ engagement and their active participation in team or group work. The approach generally emphasizes collaboration, exchange and sharing.
Students will often work with the groups or teams to which they are assigned at the beginning of semester. However, the composition of each team will be changed so that students work with different groups of people for each relevant assessment task. Responsibility for learning basic concepts is on individual students in terms of work done outside class. Time in class is mostly spent in teams, utilizing and applying materials in practical exercises. All teamwork is done during class time. Grades are based on both individual assessment tasks and teamwork in class (class participation).

Classroom protocol

1. As this course encourages group work and utilizes group or team based learning, students are required to arrive to class on time and prepared to take part in their team’s learning.
2. Classroom participants are each expected to contribute to fostering a safe and stimulating environment that encourages participation, and that is respectful at all times to others and their opinions.
3. Students are expected to complete assignments by the time indicated in this syllabus. Late assignments will not be graded.
4. Students are responsible for making up material missed in their absence.
5. The use of electronic devices is not allowed unless during an emergency. Students may use e-readers rather than printing materials, however.

While an emergency personal or health related situation appropriately verified (for instance, a doctor’s certificate in the case of illness), will be grounds for a student making up missed work or assignments without penalty, in no other circumstances will making up missed tasks be allowed. With regard to any unavoidable missed classes, it is incumbent upon students themselves to ‘catch up’ in terms of content and materials.

PLEASE NOTE:

University policy F15-12 (at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf) states that, “Students are expected to attend all meetings for the courses in which they are enrolled as they are responsible for material discussed therein, and active participation is frequently essential to ensure maximum benefit to all class members. In some cases, attendance is fundamental to course objectives; for example, students may be required to interact with others in the class. Attendance is the responsibility of the student. Participation may be used as a criterion for grading when the parameters and their evaluation are clearly defined in the course syllabus and the percentage of the overall grade is stated.”
Course Communication

Course materials (syllabus, course announcements, readings, instructions for assignments and communications about grades and so on) are given in class and posted on Canvas. To log into Canvas, go to: https://sjsu.instructure.com.

Students are responsible for regularly checking with the Canvas messaging system to learn of any updates. Student papers are also to be submitted through Canvas. If you are new to Canvas please review this tutorial: http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/docs/CanvasStudentTutorial_New.pdf.

Justice Studies Department Reading and Writing Philosophy

The Department of Justice Studies is committed to scholarly excellence. Therefore, the Department promotes academic, critical, and creative engagement with language (i.e., reading and writing) throughout its curriculum. A sustained and intensive exploration of language prepares students to think critically and to act meaningfully in interrelated areas of their lives—personal, professional, economic, social, political, ethical, and cultural. Graduates of the Department of Justice Studies leave San José State University prepared to enter a range of careers and for advanced study in a variety of fields; they are prepared to more effectively identify and ameliorate injustice in their personal, professional and civic lives. Indeed, the impact of literacy is evident not only within the span of a specific course, semester, or academic program but also over the span of a lifetime.

Learning Outcomes and Course Goals

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- (GELO1) Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts.
- (GELO2) Identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them.
- (GELO3) Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues.
- (GELO4) Apply multidisciplinary material to a topic relevant to policy and social action at the local, national, and/or international levels.
Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- (CLO1) Recall a general history of human rights, including the significant events, theories, actors and ideas that gave rise to the concept of human rights.
- (CLO2) Demonstrate a general familiarity with major human rights instruments and how these work with regard to international (treaty) law.
- (CLO3) Demonstrate a familiarity with several current human rights campaigns (domestic and international), reporting agencies (Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and so on), as well as policy debates, globally and locally.

Required Texts/Readings


This book is available at the King Library and electronically through the library’s website: [http://catalog.sjlibrary.org/record=b4783900](http://catalog.sjlibrary.org/record=b4783900). Please note that this text will be referred to in the section of this guide that deals with your weekly topics and reading schedule, as HRIOOBY, with the relevant chapter indicated. For instance: HRIOOBY, chapter 3.

Recommended Texts

NOTE: You will be supplied with the texts of international legal instruments, articles and other readings in class and online from time to time. The texts listed here, below, appear where relevant in the course schedule, and are recommendations only.

Alston, P., Goodman, R., Steiner, H.J., *International Human Rights in Context: Law, Politics, Morals* (3rd edition) Clarendon Press, Oxford, 2007. Please note that this text may be referred to in class, on Canvas, and in the section of this guide that deals with your weekly topics and reading schedule, as IHR, with the relevant chapter indicated. For instance: IHR, chapter 3.

Alston P., Goodman R., *International Human Rights (the successor to International Human Rights in Context)*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2013. Please note that this text may be referred to in class, on Canvas, and in the section of this guide that
deals with your weekly topics and reading schedule, as IHR2, with the relevant chapter indicated. For instance: IHR2, chapter 3.

Donnelly, J. *Universal Human Rights: in theory and practice* (3rd edition), Cornell University Press, 2013. Please note that this text may be referred to in class, on Canvas, and in the section of this guide that deals with your weekly topics and reading schedule, as UHR, with the relevant chapter indicated. For instance: UHR, chapter 3.

**Other useful books**


**Other readings**


All other required readings will be available on Canvas, under Files\Readings. If you choose to print them out please print on both sides (duplex) to save paper.

**Other useful resources (may assist with students’ research and preparation for assignments, as well as being of general relevance and interest)**

http://sf-hrc.org - City and County of San Francisco Human Rights Commission
www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt - State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, which cover most countries in the world (not the USA)
www.hurisearch.org (for searching human rights documents)
http://academic3.american.edu/~mertus/hr%glossary.htm - Glossary
Human Rights Review and Human Rights Quarterly Available electronically through the library’s website.
www.ohchr.org - The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
www1.umn.edu/humanrts - The University of Minnesota Human Rights Library – contains thousands of human rights documents

Library Liaison

Silke Higgins, silke.higgins@sjsu.edu, (408) 808-2118, http://libguides.sjsu.edu/justicestudies Students are strongly encouraged to contact their library liaison for individual help with their research.

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at http://www.sjsu.edu senate/docs/S12-3.pdf.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Readings

Students are expected to complete readings before the class session indicated on the course schedule. Students should come to class prepared to discuss any assigned readings (including those allocated during class). Ideally, all students will actively engage and participate in class through the team or group based approach to learning. Though readings are not a graded assignment per se, the final and midterm exams will certainly focus on students’ ability to recall, understand, and integrate readings in their responses. Substantively, the readings in this course are designed to expose students to international and domestic tensions and perspectives on how
fundamental rights and dignity for human and non-human animals might be defined and realized. Readings are intentionally designed to represent the culturally and politically diverse field from which discussions of fundamental rights and dignity emerge.

Assignments

* Participation is 15% of final grade (GELO1, GELO2, GELO3, CLO2)

Student participation will be evaluated based on contribution to in-class and online discussions about human rights obligations and violations (including in teams or groups, as described above), as well as performance on quizzes and in-class activities. Regular attendance is essential to effective learning, participation and success in class.

From time to time, teams or groups will work together in class in application exercises. Teams will also prepare presentations. Presentations contribute to students’ ultimate grades as part of the participation grade.

An important goal of the approach to learning in this course is to create a classroom environment that is productive, supportive, intellectually challenging and ultimately, inspiring. It is hoped that team exercises will help to foster respectful, thoughtful discussion and debate. Ideally, students will learn from each other and perhaps have some preconceived ideas expanded, challenged and/or possibly overturned as a result of an engaging and exciting classroom. It is recognized that group dynamics will differ across the board and students will circulate between teams as a remedy to problematic dynamics that emerge.

Team presentations may assist with preparation for the midterm and final exam.

* Midterm Exam is 25% of final grade (GELO1, GELO2, GELO3, GELO4, CLO1, CLO2, CLO3)

The midterm will be a take-home exam comprising a mix of questions requiring short and long answers, likely relating to a relevant recent newspaper article and/or an academic piece we have already considered during a previous class. We will discuss the expectations and parameters for the midterm exam in class. The midterm exam will be issued on Wednesday, April 6th in class, and is due back on Monday, April 11th, in class.

* Human Rights Presentation is 25% of final grade (GELO1, GELO4, CLO2, CLO3)

Students will make a 5-minute presentation in class assessing a current human rights issue or ‘special interest’ (accompanied by a single page written summary - typed, double-spaced, 12-point font, APA citation format). Students will be asked to
analyze the specific human rights and human rights instruments involved, identify key actors and UN institutions, and assess the strategies of human rights advocates related to the topic. Students must discuss relevant human rights instruments in detail. Presentations will be graded for content, clarity, correct grammar (for speaking), and persuasive analysis and expression. Detailed instructions and the grading rubrics for the assignment will be provided in class.

*Final Exam is 35% of final grade (GELO1, GELO2, GELO3, GELO4, CLO1, CLO2, CLO3)*

The final will be made up of a mix of questions requiring short and long answers. We will discuss the expectations and parameters for the final exam in class. Students are encouraged to complete and take notes on class readings and classroom activities for use on the final. In general, the final exam will require students to recall and apply human rights discourse and instruments to analyze contemporary social problems (domestic and international). Students should expect the final to cover all significant class readings and activities, and be ready to demonstrate their original and critical thinking. The final exam is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18, 7:15-9:30 am, in class.

-- Students’ preparedness for the final exam

It is hoped that engagement in class exercises, as well as completing required readings (at a minimum), and receiving feedback from peers and the instructor will have prepared students for the task of writing their final exam in such a way that they are interested and excited about doing it. Throughout the course we will be drawing on and considering perspectives on different human rights and justice issues from a range of academic disciplines. It is hoped that this will serve to broaden students’ own perspectives and provide them with a depth of interest and more profound engagement with the subject matter.

To bolster the goal of preparedness for the final exam, time in class will be devoted to considering what makes a persuasive article; a sound argument; engaging writing. Utilizing the different perspectives covered in the course will be strongly encouraged. This will be useful in the contexts of both short and longer written answers. The recommended texts and some other relevant books and useful resources, listed above under the heading so named, will be drawn upon as the basis for thinking about what makes a good paper. In the case that close analysis of such materials is to be undertaken, students will be provided with the relevant article in class or directed to an appropriate website well in advance of the class in which it will be discussed.
**Grading Scale**

Exams and final grades will be calculated as a percentage on a typical “100 point scale.” Missing, late, or plagiarized work will be given a grade of zero. Contact the professor early if you are having difficulty completing assignments or need accommodations for disabilities or absences for religious holidays.

The final course grade will be calculated based on the following standard scale:

- 98-100 A+
- 94-97 A
- 90-93 A-
- 88-89 B+
- 84-87 B
- 80-83 B-
- 78-79 C+
- 74-77 C
- 70-73 C-
- 68-69 D+
- 64-67 D
- 60-63 D-
- <60 F

Please note, a “C” or higher is required to receive credit for this course toward a Justice Studies or Forensic Science Major.


NOTE: “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See University Policy F13-1 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf for more details.

**University Policies**

**General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student**

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU’s policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises.

In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/.

The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf, requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.

Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

Academic Integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at

Introduction to Human Rights and Justice, JS 25, Spring Term, 2016
http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.

**Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at http://www.sjsu.edu/aec to establish a record of their disability.

**Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays**

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See University Policy S14-7 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf.

**Student Technology Resources**

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/ located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.
SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC). Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit Peer Connections website at http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu for more information.

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located in the Student Wellness Center Room 300B, near the corner of 7th Street and San Carlos Street. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to scan this code.)
Schedule

NOTE: this schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Any changes will be announced in class.

Required reading in this schedule is marked with an asterisk (*). Recommended reading also appears (and additional readings may be recommended and occasionally provided in class).

Following introductory classes we will spend approximately: 4 weeks looking at the origins of human rights (including institutions and instruments); 4 weeks considering special interests and issues; 2 weeks on universality and cultural specificity; and 2 weeks on critical appraisals of and approaches to human rights. We will spend a couple of classes discussing assignment requirements (research, writing, presentation preparation and delivery).

<p>| Mon 02/01 | Introductions and overview | Course Schedule * |
| Weds 02/03 | Background to Human Rights | HRIOOBY chapter 23 * IHR chapter 2 |
| Mon 02/08 | International Bill of Human Rights | Part E of IHR chapter 2 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 02/29</td>
<td>ICESCR</td>
<td>HRIOOBY chapter 2 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weds 03/02</td>
<td>ICESCR</td>
<td>ICESCR: <a href="http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx">http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 03/07</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
<td>IHR chapter 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weds 03/09</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
<td>IHR chapter 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 03/14</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>HRIOOBY, Introduction to Part IV and chapter 11 **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 03/21</td>
<td>Special interests and issues group class presentations</td>
<td>TBD (see suggested readings and sites above, and we will discuss in class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weds 03/23</td>
<td>Special interests and issues group class presentations</td>
<td>TBD (see suggested readings and sites above, and we will discuss in class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 03/28</td>
<td>Spring recess</td>
<td>No classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weds 03/30</td>
<td>Spring recess</td>
<td>No classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 04/04</td>
<td>Preparation for midterm exam</td>
<td>Schedule *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weds 04/06</td>
<td>Midterm exam issued in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 04/11</td>
<td>Midterm exam due in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weds 04/13</td>
<td>Special interests and issues group</td>
<td>TBD (see suggested readings and sites above, and we will discuss in class)</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 04/18</td>
<td>class presentations</td>
<td>Special interests and issues group, TBD (see suggested readings and sites above, and we will discuss in class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weds 04/20</td>
<td>Universality and cultural relativism</td>
<td>IHR chapter 7, UHR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 04/25</td>
<td>Critical appraisals of human rights</td>
<td>Distributed in class.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weds 04/27</td>
<td>Individual presentations</td>
<td>TBD (see suggested readings and sites above, and we will discuss in class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 05/02</td>
<td>Individual presentations</td>
<td>TBD (see suggested readings and sites above, and we will discuss in class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weds 05/04</td>
<td>Individual presentations</td>
<td>TBD (see suggested readings and sites above, and we will discuss in class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 05/09</td>
<td>Individual presentations</td>
<td>TBD (see suggested readings and sites above, and we will discuss in class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weds 05/11</td>
<td>Individual presentations</td>
<td>Any final presentations, wrap up and feedback</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 05/16</td>
<td>Last day of instruction</td>
<td>Wrap up and exam preparation (exam is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18, 7:15-9:30 am, in class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weds 05/18</td>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>In class, 7:15 am – 9:30 am</td>
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A note on special interests or issues classes: may include slavery, race, women, Indigenous peoples, children, LGBT persons (also consider topical issues and their relationships to human rights and justice, such as immigration, refugees, climate change, national security, terrorism and detention, for example). (This focus will be maintained for 4 classes, with students’ presentations taking place following them. Students will be expected to listen closely to their peers’ presentations, and to provide positive and constructive feedback. Please note that the illustrative list of issues is not exhaustive and students may wish to discuss with the instructor a focus that does not appear here – this is encouraged. (Recommended reading: relevant sections of IHR including but not limited to chapters 4&5; and, HR100BY chapters dedicated to your topic/issue). We will discuss in class how to employ the additional useful resources listed in the section of this guide so named, above, and build on this as appropriate for each topic area).