San José State University
Sociology Department
Sociology of Human Rights (SOC 118) Fall 2018

Instructor: Mitra Rokni

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Telephone: 408-924-5788
Email: mitra.rokni@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: MW 10:30-12:00
Class Days/Time: MW 12:00-1:15
Classroom: DMH 167
Prerequisites: SOCI 001 or equivalent

Faculty Web Page
Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, links to documentaries, articles, etc. may be found on my faculty web page accessible through the Quick Links>Faculty Web Page links on the SJSU home page (http://www.sjsu.edu/people/mitra.rokni/).

Course Description
Analyze meanings and practices of human rights violation and promotion by exploring the social consequences of issues such as social inequalities (class, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, and sexuality), war crimes (genocide, torture, weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, and rape), immigration rights, and environmental destruction (refugees, social displacement, climate change).

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to understand the meaning and requirements of universal human rights, in a historical context, and critically reflect on contemporary moral questions, prevailing power relations and alternative ethical approaches to change the institutions for social justice.

Course Requirements and Assignments
“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities… Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”
Required Texts/Readings
John W. Dower. The Violent American Century.

Additional Readings & Resources are available at my Webpage under Courses:
http://www.sjsu.edu/people/mitra.rokni/

Classroom Protocol
We are all travelers on this learning journey called life. Classroom is our shared educational space for learning, understanding, discussing, and responding to one another as both students and teachers. To disregard the importance of an active engagement in this learning process could create an atmosphere of apathy, silence, and disrespect to the very spirit of education to overcome our individual and collective ignorance. It is crucial for students to take responsibility for their role in enhancing and creating the opportunities for a critical and civil dialogue on the most pressing issues of our time. Arriving on time, staying the whole period of a class time, and turning off cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices, is part of the civility needed for a productive and engaged classroom. A smart sense of humor and/or intelligent critical debate is always welcome. But it is important to remember, at all times, that you are here to develop your critical mind, practical skills, study, learn, and participate in building a better world. It is critical to develop a sense of social responsibility towards others, and an individual responsibility for self-development.

NOTE: No recording devices are allowed in this class under ANY circumstances. The AEC students and the educator will arrange for a note taker in class.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Two Take-Home Exams: Midterm & Final (each 25% of the final grade) 2 Essay Questions to reflect assigned readings, lectures, documentaries, and/or additional information provided.

Research Paper (20% of the final grade) The 8 pages paper (not counting the cover page and references), on a topic related to our course content, and should demonstrate research skills, an understanding of the subject matter under study, critical thinking, analysis, as well as the implications of new knowledge. You must follow a recognized format for citations and references. The paper must be based on at least 3 books and 2 articles (you may use extra Internet educational websites). All sources must be scholarly, peer reviewed articles, and expert websites.
Check the following link for additional resources:
http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill20.html

1. Select a topic (narrow it to something manageable for our time frame)
2. Pose your research question(s)
3. Explain the importance of your research
4. Working thesis
5. List 3 scholarly books (tentative) relevant to your research topic and question(s)
Check the following website for how to write a research paper including all the above requirements. http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/

Responses (25% of the final grade) Random group discussions, debates, and/or written responses on assigned readings and documentaries.

Late assignments will lose 5 points for each weekday.
University Policies: You may find all syllabus related University Policies and resources information listed on GUP's at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student
Course Requirements and Assignments
Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays
Dropping and Adding
Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material
Academic integrity
Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act
Student Technology Resources
SJSU Peer Connections
SJSU Writing Center
SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material
University Policy S12-7, 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.”
- It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor’s process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
- In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “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 Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at 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 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) to establish a record of their disability.
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 is 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 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.

SJSU Counseling Services
The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. 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 CAMPUS EMERGENCY PROCEDURES: See http://www.sjsu.edu/emergency/
POLICE - FIRE – MEDICAL EMERGENCY DIAL 9 – 1 – 1
For further information visit the University Police Web site at: http://www.sjsu.edu/police/
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<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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<td><strong>Aug.</strong></td>
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| **Aug** | **M 27** | Normative/Theoretical Foundations of Human Rights  
Universal Declaration of Human Rights | (MG) Langlois, pp. 1-26  
Goodhart, Appendix 1 |
| **Aug** | **W 29** | The Moral Resources of Humanity | Glover, pp. 1-46 |
| **Sept.** | **M 3** | Labor Day - Campus Closed |
| **Sept.** | **W 5** | Moral Psychology of Waging War | Glover, pp. 47-118 |
| **Sept.** | **M 10** | Genocide & Human Rights  
The Genocide Factor  
War As a Trap/WW I | (MG) Straus, pp. 273-289  
Documentary V. 1  
Glover, pp. 155-236 |
| **Sept.** | **W 12** | The Genocide Factor  
Belief & Terror/Stalin/Mao | Documentary V. 2  
Glover, pp. 237-316 |
| **Sept.** | **M 17** | The Genocide Factor  
Ethnic Cleansing/WWII/Holocaust | Documentary V. 3  
Glover, pp. 317-397 |
| **Sept.** | **W 19** | Legacies of WWII  
Hiroshima-Nagasaki & Atomic Bomb | Dower, pp. 17-25  
Documentary/Oliver Stone |
| **Sept.** | **M 24** | From Korea to Vietnam  
International Relations & Ideology | (MG) Dunne/Hanson, pp. 42-90 |
| **Sept.** | **W 26** | The Genocide Factor  
Tribalism/Rwanda/Yugoslavia/Darfur | Documentary V. 4  
Glover, pp. 119-154 |
| **Oct.** | **M 1** | Midterm Take-home Questions  
Ideological Misuse of Human Rights  
Torture & Political Prisoners  
Geneva Convention & International Law | Kuperman, pp. 290-309  
(MG) Shultz, pp. 310-327  
(http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/instree/y3gctpw.htm) |
| **Oct.** | **W 3** | Proxy War & Surrogate Terror  
The Past Alive in Present/The Middle East | Dower, pp. 57-104  
Glover, pp. 399-414 |
| **Oct.** | **M 8** | Contemporary Critiques of Human Rights | (MG) Chandler, pp. 107-122 |
| **Oct.** | **W 10** | Precarious Life/Why Preserve the Life of the Other | Judith Butler/Lecture Notes |
| **Oct.** | **M 15** | Midterm Exams  
Neoliberalism/Economic Globalization | Noam Chomsky/Pierre Bourdieu/Lecture |
<p>| <strong>Oct.</strong> | <strong>W 17</strong> | Neoliberalism/Undoing the Demos/Wendy Brown | Video/Lecture Notes |
| <strong>Oct.</strong> | <strong>M 22</strong> | International Covenant on Economic, Social, &amp; Cultural Rights | Lecture Notes |</p>
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>W 31</td>
<td>Human Rights-Based Approach to Development &amp; Capabilities Approach</td>
<td>(MG) Fukuda-Parr, pp. 161-196</td>
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<td>Nov</td>
<td>M 5</td>
<td>Sex, Gender, Sexuality &amp; Social Justice/LGBTIQ</td>
<td>Lecture Notes</td>
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<td>Nov</td>
<td>W 7</td>
<td>Feminist Approaches to Human Rights: Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation</td>
<td>(MG) Ackerly, pp. 27-41</td>
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<td>Nov</td>
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<td><strong>Veterans Day/No Class</strong></td>
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<td>Nov</td>
<td>W 14</td>
<td>Retributive, Restorative, Reparative &amp; Transitional Justice</td>
<td>(MG) Quinn, pp. 328-379</td>
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<td>Nov</td>
<td>W 21</td>
<td>Arcs of Instability/Threat of Nuclear War From Cold War To Nuclear Terror</td>
<td>Dower, pp. 105-126/Lecture Notes</td>
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<td>Nov</td>
<td>M 26</td>
<td><strong>Final Take-home Questions</strong></td>
<td>(MG) Glasius, pp. 144-160</td>
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<td>Global Civil Society &amp; Human Rights: Cosmopolitan Citizenship &amp; Democracy</td>
<td>David Held/Lecture Notes</td>
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<td>Nov</td>
<td>W 28</td>
<td>Global Justice Movement/Another World is Possible</td>
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<td>World Social Forum</td>
<td>Documentary</td>
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<td>Dec</td>
<td>W 5</td>
<td>Environmental Justice &amp; Sustainable Economy: Do the Math (Bill McKibben -350.org)</td>
<td>(MG) Landman, pp. 363-396 Document</td>
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<td>Dec</td>
<td>M 10</td>
<td>Future of Human Rights</td>
<td>Goodhart, pp. 347-362</td>
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<td>Dec</td>
<td>Fri 14</td>
<td>Final Exams Due</td>
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<td><strong>Final Research Papers (10:00-12:00- DMH 222)</strong></td>
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