

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS 25, Introduction to Human Rights and Justice,
Fall 2017, Section 80, Course # 50876

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Halima Kazem-Stojanovic
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Email:	Halima.Kazem@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesdays & Thursdays @ 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	NA
Classroom:	Online Class
GE Category:	D3 Social Issues

Course Description

From Catalog: “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 the following:

Where did human rights (as an idea and body of law) come from?

How are human rights defined through international law (i.e. through human rights instruments, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights)?

How do the major international courts (ICC and ICJ) work?

What are the most significant human rights related international NGOs and how do they work?

How do international human rights relate to human rights struggles and social problems in the U.S. and our local communities?

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) Students will be able to apply multidisciplinary material to a topic relevant to policy and social action at the local, national, and/or international levels.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

The goals of this course are to (1) give students a basic understanding of the events, actors and ideas that gave rise to the

concept of human rights; (2) give students a basic understanding of international human rights law and a general familiarity with common human rights instruments; (3) give students the opportunity to grapple with the complicated relationship in theory and practice between human rights and social justice. As part of this last goal, students will become relatively familiar with several contemporary human rights campaigns.

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

- (CLO1) Recall a general history of human rights including the significant events, 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 instruments 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, etc.), and policy debates.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Human Rights: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions) 2nd Edition by Andrew Clapham
ISBN-13: 978-0198706168
ISBN-10: 0198706162

Purchase a printed copy of the textbook. It can be purchased on Amazon and other book retailers for less than \$10 for a paperback copy.

Other Readings

Most readings will be distributed by the instructor as emailed PDF files or web links. Readings will include book chapters, policy papers, news articles and other documents.

Sign up for Human Rights Watch's daily briefs and weekly newsletters.

Library Liaison

For help with library resources and library research (including the use of databases and online research materials—such as journal search engines), students are strongly encouraged to contact the Justice Studies Library Liaison: Silke Higgins, silke.higgins@sjsu.edu, (408) 808-2118.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Readings

Reading assignments will be uploaded to Canvas on a weekly basis. Students are expected to complete readings by the class session indicated on the course schedule and announced on Canvas. Students should come to class prepared to *discuss* the assigned readings such that class time is not wasted, and we can engage the material together.

Weekly Assignment or Discussion Post

Every week I will put up a discussion post or other type of writing assignment. I will post the assignments on Tuesday evenings by 9 p.m. and responses will be due on Canvas by Monday nights at 9 p.m. I will be looking for thoughtful answers to discussion questions and writing assignments, which reflect on readings and recorded lectures. You must also respond to 2 peer posts every week. These assignments will be worth **44%** of your grade.

Human Rights Report Assignment & Presentation:

Description and Purpose:

Students will have the opportunity to research and discuss the human rights situation in a country of their choosing. This assignment requires students to do the following in under 8 pages, employing at least 3 scholarly sources, in standard APA format: (1) describe the current human rights campaign or struggle (GELO 3; CELO 1), providing an historical social context (GELO 1, 2; CELO 1); (2) discuss the explicit application of human rights law and/or discourse (GELO 4; CELO 2); (3) provide a brief analysis of the campaign's aims, strategies, and progress (GELO 4, CELO 3). Paper topics must be cleared by the course instructor before drafting (see course schedule). On the day these assignments are due, students will discuss and share them in small groups (thus, "report-back"). HR report-backs are designed to expose students to how human rights law and discourse may be employed in the messy struggle for social justice. These assignments are also designed to further students' understanding of and familiarity with human rights instruments and reporting bodies/agencies.

Grading:

These assignments will be graded on a 16-point scale. They will be evaluated on content, clarity, thoroughness, and quality of sources. A sample grading rubric will be distributed to students to make all graded expectations clear before assignment submissions. HR report-backs will be worth **16%** of the final course grade.

Final Examination or Evaluation

Mid Term and Final Exams

There will be a midterm and final exam in this course to cover all course material. Both exams will be relatively straight forward, in a multiple-choice and short answer format, with both retention and application questions designed to evaluate students' substantive grasp of course material. These exams will be worth **40%** of the final course grade (GELO 1-4; CELO 1-3).

The interdisciplinary study of human rights requires a working knowledge of significant events (news) at the national and international level, particularly regarding significant social problems, policy shifts/debates, issues of war and peace, trends of social and/or cultural change, international relations, and so forth. Each session of this course will begin with a rundown of the day's major news headlines (as they relate to human rights and international security), and brief discussion of the most provocative stories. (GELO 1, 3, 4; CELO 1, 3). The midterm and final exams will include current events questions from assigned reading material and current events discussions.

Grading Information

All grades are up to the subjective judgment of the instructor. Grades will be calculated from a weighted point system. There are no "curves" applied to grades in this course.

Important Note: Students in Justice Studies must achieve a "C" or better in this course to fulfill Justice Studies Major Requirements.

Extra credit assignments will be available throughout the semester. I will post those on Canvas at least 2 weeks in advance.

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Percentage of Final Grade</u>
Take Home Assignments - Online discussion/creative assignments	11 @ 4 points = 44 points
Human Rights Country Report	16 points
Mid-Term Exam	20 points
Final Exam (cumulative)	20 points
 TOTAL	 100 points

Grading Scale

Exams and final grades will be calculated as a percentage on a typical “10 point 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

Classroom Protocol

- This course depends on participation and interaction.
- All classroom participants are expected to foster an environment that encourages participation, rather than silencing others (be respectful to one another, do not insult or intimidate others, and so forth).
- Students are expected to complete all readings and assignments by the dates indicated on the syllabus.
- Students are responsible for any and all notes and materials missed in their absence.
- Deadlines for Country Reports and Presentation are final - no late submissions will be accepted for these assignments
- For other take-home assignments – 1 point will be deducted for every 24 hours that an assignment is submitted late
- It is your responsibility to check attachments and Canvas submissions before submitting assignment. Make sure you’ve uploaded the right attachment and that the attachment can be accessed correctly. I will not give credit for assignments if they are missing or if files are corrupt. If you cannot access Canvas you should email me the assignment by the deadline to be safe.
- False reporting of information or plagiarism is unprofessional and unacceptable conduct

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>”

JS 25: “Introduction to Human Rights and Justice” Spring 2017 Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice from the instructor via email. Other assigned readings will be added on a weekly basis. Those readings will be scanned and uploaded to Canvas or offered as Internet links. Guest speakers will be announced on Canvas under announcements.

Course Schedule

Week		Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/24	Course Introduction, Syllabus Review
2	8/29	What are human rights? Current Events related to Human Rights, HRW – Clapham Chapter 1
	8/31	Origins and Foundation of Human Rights, WWI & WWII – Clapham Chapter 2 Assignment #1 Due – Monday 9/4 at 9 p.m. via Canvas
3	9/5	Human Rights as Law, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Country Selection
	9/7	UDHR, Eleanor Roosevelt, Glendon Chapters 4-6 Assignment #2 Due – Monday 9/11 at 9 p.m. via Canvas
4	9/12	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) – Reichert Chapter 3
	9/14	ICCPR in the US, ICCPR in your country, Amnesty International Speaker Assignment #3 Due – Monday 9/18 at 9 p.m. via Canvas
5	9/19	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Reichert Chapter 4
	9/21	ICESCR in Context – Clapham Chapter 7, ICESCR in your country Assignment #4 Due – Monday 9/25 at 9 p.m. via Canvas
6	9/26	Monitoring Rights, OHCHR, Overview of main Human Rights Treaties – Clapham Chapter 3
	9/28	Women’s Rights, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Clapham Chapter 8 Assignment #5 Due – Monday 10/2 at 9 p.m. via Canvas
7	10/3	CEDAW Case Studies, CEDAW in your country, Human Rights Watch Speaker
	10/5	Children’s Rights, Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), CRC in your country Assignment #6 Due – Monday 10/9 at 9 p.m. via Canvas
8	10/10	Child Labor and Access to Education
	10/12	LGBTQ Rights, Yogyakarta Principles, Same-Sex Marriage Case Study Assignment #7 Due – Monday 10/16 at 9 p.m. via Canvas
9	10/17	LGBTQ Campaigns, Midterm Review
	10/19	Midterm Exam – In person – Time and Location TBD
10	10/24	Indigenous Peoples’ Rights, Standing Rock Case Study
	10/26	Environmental Rights, Rio Declaration, New Zealand River Case Study Assignment #8 Due – Monday 10/30 at 9 p.m. via Canvas
11	10/31	Torture, Convention Against Torture (CAT), CAT in your country, Death Penalty

	11/2	BBC Film Assignment #9 Due – Monday 11/6 at 9 p.m. via Canvas
12	11/7	Human Trafficking – Speaker
	11/9	Country Report Research and Group Meeting Day Assignment #10 Due – Monday 11/13 at 9 p.m. via Canvas
13	11/14	Genocide – Rwanda, Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide
	11/16	War Crimes, Rome Statute, International Criminal Court Assignment #11 Due – Monday 11/20 at 9 p.m. via Canvas
14	11/21	Immigrants and Refugees, Refugee Convention, Film
	11/23	No Class – Thanksgiving Break!
15	11/28	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,
	11/30	Country Reports Due via Canvas @ 9 p.m.
16	12/5 & 12/7	Country Report Discussions, Final Exam Review
	12/18	Final Exam – Wednesday December 20 – In person – Location TBD

