

International Human Rights
Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne
Political Science Y200/401
Fall 2004

Professor James Toole
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Class Times: WF 12-1:15
Class Location: CM 112
Office Hours: MW 1:30-3:30
or by appointment

Course Description:

During the past half-century, human rights concerns have come to be recognized as important by many countries and international organizations. This course examines both the violation and the protection of human rights around the world. It considers the philosophical, political, and legal underpinnings of contemporary human rights; surveys the different types of human rights violations; and examines how political actors and institutions respond to violations of human rights. The course includes detailed study of human rights abuses in Rwanda, Kosovo, and Burma. When taken as Y401, this course is approved for General Education credit in Area VI (Inquiry and Analysis). It is also likely to count toward completion of IPFW's International Studies Certificate (see Professors Virtue or Corbin for details).

Course Objectives:

By the end of the semester, students who work hard in this class will be better able to: (1) understand various points of view concerning the protection and promotion of human rights in today's world; (2) understand how political actors instigate, commit, prevent, or punish human rights abuses; (3) think critically and solve problems using knowledge and skills gained in this and previous courses; and (4) apply the knowledge gained in the course across interdisciplinary boundaries. Because students in Y401 will also write a research paper, each Y401 student who works hard should also end up gaining added insight into one pressing human rights issue. The research paper should strengthen the ability of Y401 students to gather, evaluate, select, organize, and synthesize analytical material.

Course Requirements:

Students are enrolled in the class as members of either POLS Y200 or Y401. The list of required readings is exactly the same for both sections, and both sections meet as a single class. The only differences between Y200 and Y401 concern the graded assignments and the grading systems.

Students enrolled in Y200 will take two in-class examinations (one mid-term and one comprehensive final) and will write two five-page papers based on the course readings. All exams are blue-book exams. Each of these four assignments will be worth 25% of the final grade. My evaluation of class attendance, participation, and performance may affect the final grade in very close cases.

Students enrolled in Y401 will take the same two examinations and will write the same early-semester five-page paper as Y200 students. Y401 students will also write a fifteen- to twenty-page research paper on a contemporary human rights issue. Research paper topics must be selected in consultation with me, and topics, outlines, and preliminary bibliographies must be turned in by the deadlines stated in the course schedule. For students in Y401, grades will be determined as follows: the two exams and the five-page paper will be worth 22% each of the final grade, while the research paper will be worth 34% of the final grade. My evaluation of class attendance, participation, and performance may affect

the final grade in very close cases.

Classes will feature both lectures and class discussions. Students should make every effort to participate in class discussions and to ask questions about things they do not understand. Examinations must be taken on the scheduled dates; make-up examinations will only be permitted at the discretion of the instructor and will be granted only in unusual circumstances. Late papers will be subject to significant penalties, to be described in written paper instructions to be handed out in class. Plagiarism will be considered a very serious offence and will be punished as severely as IPFW regulations allow. Students are encouraged to take advantage of free individual paper-writing consultations offered by the IPFW Writing Center. The center is located in Kettler G19.

Students should not expect to do well in the class unless they attend all scheduled classes. They are also expected to complete all listed readings **before** the start of each class, since failure to do so will greatly impair their ability to understand class lectures and to participate intelligently in class discussions.

The readings in the course come from three sources: books, library reserve, and the Internet. Many readings are from two books. Both are required for purchase and are available at the university bookstore:

Jack Donnelly, *Universal Human Rights* (2nd ed.), Cornell, 2003.

Samantha Power, *A Problem from Hell*, Harper Collins Perennial, 2003.

Readings from library reserve are available electronically through the Helmke Library's Reserves Express system. To access Reserves Express, visit the Library's webpage (<http://www.lib.ipfw.edu>). Readings from the Internet are available through my webpage (go to <http://users.ipfw.edu/toolej/Y200readings.htm>). Students will be held responsible for all assigned readings, whether they come from purchased books, from Reserves Express, or from the Internet. **All readings on the syllabus are required.**

If you have or acquire a disability and would like to find out what special services and accommodations may be available to you, contact Services for Students with Disabilities in Walb Union 113. The telephone number is 481-6657 (voice/TTY).

Course Schedule and Required Readings:

Date	Topic	Readings
8/25	Course Overview	None
8/27	Human Rights and International Law	Universal Declaration of Human Rights (INTERNET)
9/1	Theories of International Relations: Realism	Hans J. Morgenthau, "A Realist Theory of International Politics" (RESERVE)
9/3	Theories of International Relations: Liberalism	Michael Doyle, "Liberalism and World Politics" (RESERVE)
9/8	Theories of International Relations: Constructivism	Ted Hopf, "The Promise of Constructivism in International Relations Theory", pp. 171-181 and 198-200 <i>only</i> (RESERVE)
9/10	Theories of Human Rights	Donnelly, chs. 2-3
9/15	History of International Human Rights Law and Politics Also: Short Paper Due for both Y200 and Y401	Power, preface and chs. 1-3
9/17	Defining Genocide in International Law	Power, chs. 4, 5, and 7
9/22	Case Study: Rwanda (1)	Power, ch. 10
9/24	Case Study: Rwanda (2)	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (INTERNET)
9/29	International Human Rights Regimes	Donnelly, ch. 8; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (INTERNET)
10/1	NGOs and International Human Rights	Daniel Bell and Joseph H. Carens, "The Ethical Dilemmas of International Human Rights and Humanitarian NGOs" (RESERVE)
10/6	Monitoring Human Rights	Katarina Mansson, "Cooperation in Human Rights: Experience from the Peace Operation in Kosovo" (RESERVE)
10/8	War and Human Rights Also: Y401 Research Paper Topics Due	<i>Reading(s) to be announced</i>
10/13	Humanitarian Intervention	Donnelly, ch. 14; David Rieff, "Humanitarianism in Crisis" (RESERVE)
10/15	Mid-term Exam	None
10/20	Case Study: Kosovo (1)	Power, ch. 12
10/22	Case Study: Kosovo (2)	
10/27	Human Rights and the War on Terror	Michael Ignatieff, "Lesser Evils" (RESERVE)
10/29	Social and Economic Rights Also: Y401 Research Paper Outlines and Preliminary Bibliographies Due	International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (INTERNET)
11/3	Cultural Relativism and International Human Rights	Donnelly, chs. 5-7
11/5	Human Rights and Development	Donnelly, ch. 11 <i>and other reading(s) to be announced</i>

11/10	Group Rights	Donnelly, ch. 12 <i>and other reading(s) to be announced</i>
11/12	No class	None
11/17	Case Study: Burma	US State Department 2003 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Burma (INTERNET)
11/19	International Tribunals	Power, chs. 13 and 14
12/1	The International Criminal Court	Rome Statue of the International Criminal Court, Preamble and Articles 1-8 of Part 1 (INTERNET); Kenneth Roth and Ruth Wedgwood, "Is America's Withdrawal from the New International Criminal Court Justified?" (RESERVE)
12/3	Truth Commissions and the Dilemmas of Justice	Paul Van Zyl, "Dilemmas of Transitional Justice" (RESERVE)
Friday December 3: Y200 Second Short Paper Due		
<i>December 8 and 10: Reserved for any required make-up classes</i>		
Wednesday December 8: Y401 Research Paper Due		
Monday December 13 (10:30 to 12:30): Final Exam for both Y200 and Y401		