

DRAFT SYLLABUS – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

POL412H1S

Human Rights and International Relations

Course Instructor: Geoffrey Cameron

July 4 – August 14, 2018

**Mondays and Wednesdays, 4-6pm (Unless otherwise noted)
BL 113**

Course Description

The concept of human rights is one of the most powerful ideas in international and domestic politics. It presents a vision of global justice towards which millions of people strive, alongside a growing array of groups and social movements. It has provided an orientation to the development of international law and institutions that have in turn exerted an influence on domestic politics. In short, to understand international history and politics during and after the 20th century, one must study the role of human rights. In this course, we will begin by entering into a vibrant debate about the origins of human rights. From where did this concept emerge? How did it come to seize the imagination of millions of people around the world? In what ways has it shaped the development of international law? We will read and discuss a number of recent influential works that try to answer these questions, alongside several classic texts that have shaped the way we think about humanity and human rights. In the second part of the course, we will explore how human rights work in the world today. Engaging more closely with the application of international relations theory, we will examine how transnational human rights movements evolved, how human rights treaties, courts and prosecutions work, and how military intervention became entangled with the human rights movement. Finally, we will examine how international law is implicated in the contemporary refugee crisis, and consider whether human rights can and should retain its power in a global society.

Required texts

Samuel Moyn. *The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History*, Harvard University Press, 2010.

Assignments

Attendance – 10%

Reading Response and Presentation (Weeks 2, 3 or 4) – 15%

Book Review (*The Last Utopia*) (Due Week 7) – 25%

Reading Response and Presentation (Weeks 7, 8, or 9) – 15%

Critical Essay (Due Week 12) – 35%

Note: Assignments are to be submitted in hard copy at the beginning of class on the due date. Late work may be emailed to me in soft copy at:

geoffrey.cameron@mail.utoronto.ca. You are strongly advised to keep rough and draft work of your assignments.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. A single unexcused absence will result in a zero (0). Full attendance will result in full marks. Participation is not graded, but it is an expected part of the seminar.

Reading Response and Presentation

You will complete two reading responses and prepare two presentations based on these responses. A reading response is a two-page (typed, single-spaced, 12 point font) response to the required readings during the week you have been assigned. You must prepare one response for each of weeks 2-4 and 7-9. We will assign these weeks in our first class. Your responses must be submitted to me in hard copy before the beginning of the class for which the readings were assigned. Missed responses will receive a grade of zero (0).

Your responses should summarize the most important points of that week's readings, evaluate those arguments, and discuss their broader implications. Grades will be based on the clarity, insight and originality of your responses to the week's readings.

You will also give a brief presentation at the start of class, under five minutes, to summarize that week's readings.

Book Review

Your book review must be about six pages (typed, single-spaced, 12 point font), and it should answer the following questions:

- What is Moyn's central argument about the origins of human rights?
- How does he engage with other arguments we have studied in the first half of the course?
- How has he helped you to think about human rights in a new way? Are you convinced by his thesis, and by the evidence he provides?
- What are some of the broader implications of his research program?

Critical Essay

In the form of a critical essay, answer the question, "**What is the future of human rights?**" Your essay should be about eight pages (typed, single-spaced, 12 point font) and it should draw primarily from the assigned readings, citing at least ten of them in the bibliography. This assignment is intended to invite your own analysis of existing debates; however, it is not an opinion editorial or a literature review. I want to know what you think, within the context of a clear and rigorous engagement with the academic discourse in this field. The essay will be graded according to the effectiveness with which you discuss the assigned readings, the originality and insightfulness of your observations, and the clarity of your writing.

Late Penalties

Late reading responses will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero (0). Other late assignments will be penalized at 5 per cent per day (including weekends).

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information on plagiarism please see: Writing at the University of Toronto <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources>.

Part I: Concepts and History

1. **Humanity and Human Rights** (Wednesday, July 4, 2018)
 - Samuel Moyn *The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History*, Harvard University Press, 2010, pp.1-43.
2. **The Rights of Man** (Friday, July 6, 2018)
 - Lynn Hunt. "The Revolutionary Origins of Human Rights," *The French Revolution and Human Rights: A Brief Documentary History*, Bedford/St. Martin's, 1996, pp. 1-32.
 - Lynn Hunt. "Appendix: Three Declarations: 1776, 1789, 1948," *Inventing Human Rights: A History*, WW Norton, 2007, pp. 202-217.
 - Hannah Arendt. "The Perplexities of the Rights of Man," *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, 1976[1966], Harcourt, pp. 290-302.
 - **Recommended:** Lynn Hunt, *Inventing Human Rights: A History*, WW Norton, 2007, pp.20-70.
3. **Anti-slavery** (Monday, July 9, 2018)
 - Jenny Martinez. *The Slave Trade and the Origins of International Human Rights Law*, Oxford University Press, 2012, pp.16-37, 114-139.
 - Philip Alston. "Does the Past Matter?: The Origins of Human Rights," *Harvard Law Review*, Vol. 126 (2013): 2043-2081.
 - **Recommended:** Adam Hochschild. *Bury the Chains*, Mariner Books, 2006.
4. **Genealogy** (Wednesday, July 11, 2018)
 - Samuel Moyn. "The first historian of human rights." *The American Historical Review* 116, no. 1 (2011): 58-79.
 - Stefan-Ludwig Hoffman. "Genealogies of Human Rights," *Human Rights in the Twentieth Century*, Stefan-Ludwig Hoffman, ed., Cambridge University Press, pp.1-28.
 - **Recommended:** Stefan-Ludwig Hoffmann. "Human Rights and History," *Past and Present* (August 2016): 1-32.
5. **The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Geneva Convention** (Monday, July 16, 2018)
 - Samuel Moyn. *The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History*, Harvard University Press, 2010, pp. 44-83.

- Mary Anne Glendon. *World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, Random House, 2002, pp. 24-47, 93-120.
- Michael Ignatieff. "Lemkin's Word," *The New Republic*, February 26, 2001. <https://newrepublic.com/article/62613/lemkins-word>
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights: <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>
 - See also, Cassin Draft and Humphrey Draft: Glendon, pp. 371-380.
- Convention for the Prevention of Genocide: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b3ac0.html>
- **Recommended:** Mark Mazower. "Nations, Refugees and Territory: The Jews and the Lessons of the Nazi New Order," *No Enchanted Palace: The End of Empire and the Ideological Origins of the United Nations*, Princeton University Press, 2009, pp.104-148.

6. The Rights Revolution (Wednesday, July 18, 2018)

- Samuel Moyn, *The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History*, Harvard University Press, 2010, pp.120-175.
- Jan Eckel, "The Rebirth of Politics from the Spirit of Morality: Explaining the Human Rights Revolution of the 1970s," *The Breakthrough: Human Rights in the 1970s*, Jan Eckel and Samuel Moyn eds., University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013, pp.226-259.
- **Recommended:** Václav Havel, "The Power of the Powerless," in *Living in Truth*, pp.36-122.

NOTE: NO CLASS THE WEEK OF JULY 22

Part II: After human rights

7. Advocacy and civil society (Monday, July 30, 2018) – **BOOK REVIEWS DUE**

- Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink. *Activists Beyond Borders*, Cornell University Press, 1998, pp.1-38, 79-120.
- Clifford Bob, "Merchants of Morality," *Foreign Policy* (March – April 2002), pp. 36-45.

8. Treaties and compliance (Wednesday, August 1, 2018)

- Beth Simmons. *Mobilizing for Human Rights: International Law in Domestic Politics*, Cambridge University Press, 2009, pp.112-158, 349-380.
- Oona A. Hathaway. "Do human rights treaties make a difference?" *The Yale Law Journal* 111, no. 8 (2002): 1935-2042. (**Only read pp. 2002-2025**)

9. Courts and prosecutions (Friday, August 3, 2018)

- Aryeh Neier, "What Should Be Done about the Guilty?" *New York Review of Books*, February 1, 1990.
- Kathryn Sikkink. *The Justice Cascade: How Human Rights Prosecutions are Changing World Politics*. W.W. Norton, 2011, pp.93-120; 211-245.

10. Military intervention (Wednesday, August 8, 2018)

- Kelly Kate Pease and David Forsythe. "Human Rights, Humanitarian Intervention, and World Politics." *Human Rights Quarterly* 15.2 (1993): 290-314.
- Alan Kuperman. "A Model Humanitarian Intervention? Reassessing NATO's Libya Campaign," *International Security* 38.1(2013): 105–36.

11. Refugees and human rights (Monday, August 13, 2018)

- Thomas Gammeltoft-Hansen. *Access to asylum: International refugee law and the globalisation of migration control*, Cambridge University Press, 2011, pp.11-43, 231-248.

12. A new politics for a global society? (Tuesday, August 14, 2018) –
CRITICAL ESSAYS DUE

- David Kennedy. "The International Human Rights Movement: Still Part of the Problem?" *Examining Critical Perspectives on Human Rights*, Rob Dickinson, Elena Katselli, Colin Murray and Ole W. Pedersen, eds., Cambridge University Press, 2012, pp. 19-34.
- Samuel Moyn, "Epilogue: The Future of Human Rights," *Human Rights and the Uses of History*, Verso, 2014, pp. 135-147.