

Political Science 6651  
International Human Rights  
Spring Semester, 2009-10

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Office Hours:

TTH 9:30 -- 11:00  
W 12:00 -- 2:00  
(or by appointment)

Requirements:

Since this is a research seminar on international politics, all students enrolled are required to write a high-quality term paper on a topic approved by the instructor. The paper should be in the range of 25-30 pages in length. It will be presented orally to the class at one of the sessions in the latter part of the semester (either April 22 or 29). The final version of the paper is due not later than noon on Friday, May 7, 2010.

All students will make presentations on their term paper outlines at the seminar session on March 4, as indicated on the schedule below. The deadline for selecting term paper projects approved by the instructor is February 4. Periodic individual meetings with the instructor must be held as needed throughout the semester.

In addition, all students are required to write reviews of two books on human rights. These books are subject to the approval of the instructor and cannot be one of the assigned core readings of the seminar or a principal source book for the term paper. The reviews, which should be four to five pages in length, are due on March 11 and April 15 as indicated on the seminar schedule below.

The term paper and the reviews are to be double-spaced and printed on both sides of the page.

All students are expected to come to class prepared to participate in discussion of the reading materials. Specific instructions regarding the readings and questions for discussion in class may from time to time be posted on D2L.

Core Readings:

1. Richard Claude and Burns Weston (Eds.), Human Rights in the World Community, 3<sup>rd</sup>. ed. 2006.
2. William Schulz (Ed.), The Future of Human Rights: U.S. Policy for a New Era. 2008.
3. Beth Simmons, Mobilizing for Human Rights, 2009.

The following website is very highly recommended for the research project and to stay informed about international affairs in the future: <http://people.virginia.edu/~rjb3v/rjb.html>

As indicated in the schedule below, the core readings for the seminar are divided into the three main topics of the seminar:

- I. Historical and Philosophical Issues
- II. Commitment to and Compliance with Human Rights Norms and Rules
- III. The Four Generations of Human Rights—Civil and Political Rights; Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights; Group Rights; Solidarity Rights

Attendance Policy:

All students enrolled in the seminar are expected to attend every session. Unless otherwise arranged in advance, each session will begin precisely at 4:00 p.m. on TH and last until 6:30 and possibly 6:40 p.m.

Grading Scale: Grades for the seminar will be based on the quality of the term paper (50%), the reviews (20%), and class participation (30%). The following grading scale will apply to each component of the grade:

93-100 A	73-77 C
88-92 A/B	68-72 C/D
83-87 B	58-67 D
78-82 B/C	-57 F

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

January 21: Organizational Meeting.

January 28: Historical and Philosophical Issues

Claude, All of Chapter 1  
Simmons, Chapters 1, 2  
Schulz, Introduction

February 4: Commitment and Compliance I

**Deadline for Selecting Term Paper Topic**

Simmons, Chapters 3, 4  
Claude, All of Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8  
Schulz, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 6

February 11: Commitment and Compliance II

February 18: Commitment and Compliance III

February 25: First Generation Rights: Civil and Political Rights

Claude, Chapter 2 (Nos. 7, 8)  
Simmons, Chapter 5  
Schulz, Chapter 11

March 4: **Presentation of Term Paper Outlines (all students)**

March 11: Second Generation Rights: Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

**First Review Due at Class Time**

Claude, Chapter 3  
Schulz, Chapter 7, 9

March 18: **Spring Break**

March 25: Third Generation Rights I: Group Rights

Claude, Chapter 2 (Nos. 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12)  
Simmons, Chapters 6, 7, 8  
Schulz, Chapter 10, 12

April 1: **Easter Break**

April 8: Third Generation Rights II: Group Rights

April 15: Fourth Generation Rights: Solidarity Rights

**Second Review Due at Class Time**

Claude, All of Chapter 4  
Schulz, Chapter 8, 5

April 22: **Presentation of Papers**

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April 29: **Presentation of Papers**

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May 6: Final Meeting of the Seminar: Conclusion

Simmons Chapter 9  
Schulz, Chapters 13, 14

**May 7.**

**Friday: Papers Due at Noon**