INR 4075 HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs
UCF
Fall 2023
Credit hours: 3

Course Syllabus

Instructor:	Maren J. Mainx	Term:	Fall 2023
Office Location:	315 Howard Phillips Hall	Class Meeting Days:	MWF
Office Hours:	MW 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm or by appointment*	Class Meeting Time:	2:30PM - 3:20PM
Phone:	(407) 823-2608	Class Location:	CB1 O318
Email:	maren.mainx@ucf.edu	Course Modality:	P (in-person)

*Please note that all meetings during office hours must be previously scheduled using the following link: https://calendly.com/mainx.
If you wish to meet outside my office hours, please send me an email to schedule an appointment.

UCF Catalogue Description
Human Rights Policy: PR: ENC 1102 or POS 2041 or C.I. Meaning of human rights, political and international implications of human rights policies, relationship to global peace, racism, gender inequality, economic development, and democratization.

Course Goals

- Familiarize students with fundamentals of human rights, the evolution of human rights policies, and contemporary human rights issues.
- Improve critical and analytical thinking regarding human rights topics.
- Expose students to historical and contemporary research on human rights.
- Improve students' writing, communication, and research skills.
- Improve students' collaborative work and presentation skills (course format will include discussions, active learning, and flipped classroom sessions).

Course Description
This course is designed to provide students with a look into the development and evolution of human rights. Part I of the course introduces students to the history of human rights and human rights policy while tackling questions pertaining to the progress of human rights in international relations. Part II of the course introduces students to contemporary human rights issues such as ethnic conflict and genocide, women and children's rights, and humanitarian intervention.

Student Learning Outcomes
Develop an accurate and in-depth understanding of issues and debates on human rights. By the end of this course, students will be able to think and write analytically and knowledgeably about political, economic, and social issues regarding human rights.

Important Dates

Drop/Swap and Add Deadline on myUCF	Friday, August 25, 2023, 11:59 PM
Labor Day (no classes)	Monday, September 4, 2023
Select Topic for Final Paper	**Friday, September 15, 2023, 11:59 PM**
Paper Research Proposal	**Friday, September 29, 2023, 11:59 PM**
Withdrawal Deadline	Friday, October 27, 2023, 11:59 PM
Veterans Day (observed) (no classes)	Friday, November 10, 2023
Final Paper	**Monday, November 20, 2023, 11:59 PM**
Thanksgiving Wednesday (no classes - offices still open) Thanksgiving (no classes)	Wednesday, November 22, 2023 Thursday, November 23, 2023 – Saturday, November 25, 2023
Classes End	Saturday, December 2, 2023
Final Exam	**Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 1:00 PM – 3:50 PM**

Assignment Submission
All assignments will be submitted via Webcourses. If students encounter issues submitting an assignment via Webcourses, they can email their assignment to the course instructor.

Final Exam
The final exam of this course will take place on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 from 1:00 PM – 3:50 PM.

Assessment and Grading Procedures
The course is structured around the lectures. There will be interactive debates and discussions. Students are expected to participate in discussions.

Assignments
The course is structured around the lectures. There will be interactive debates, discussions, and presentations. Students are expected to participate in debates and discussions.

10% - Attendance.

10% - Group discussions (2 online discussions).

10% - Video Assignments (2 online assignments).

40% - Exams (2 exams – midterm/final – 20% each). Concepts, vocabulary, multiple choice questions on readings and lectures, closed book, open note. No electronic devices allowed during the exams. Print out your electronic notes if you wish to use them during the exams.

25% - Human Rights Issue Paper. Due November 20th. Papers should be submitted online through Webcourses. A detailed overview of the paper requirements will be provided the second week of classes.

5% - Human Rights Issue Paper Proposal. Due September 29th. Proposals should be submitted online through Webcourses. A detailed overview of the proposal's requirements will be provided the second week of classes.

Paper Lateness Policy. Assignments are to be turned in by the day/time they are due. They should be submitted through Webcourses. For every 24 hours that pass thereafter, 5% of credit is lost.

Letter/Grade Equivalencies:

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	93% - 100%
A-	90% - 92.99%
B+	87% - 89.99%
B	83% - 86.99%
B-	80% - 82.99%
C+	77% - 79.99%
C	73% - 76.99%
C-	70% - 72.99%
D	60% - 69.99%
F	Below 60%

Curve Policy
No curve.

Method of Grade Reporting
Webcourses@UCF.

Make-up Exam Policy
Per university policy, make-ups for exams will be given for documented circumstances of illness, official college activities, religious observances, and legal obligations (such as jury duty). Under such circumstances students are required to notify the instructor within 24 hours after missing the exam. In these instances, students are also excused from class without penalty. The Undergraduate Catalog states, "Reasons for acceptable absences may include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligations, severe weather conditions, and religious holidays".

Extra Credit
No extra credit.

Course Materials and Resources
Required Text: Jack Donnelly (2013). *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice.* Cornell University Press

Most additional readings are recent news or journal articles. Students should use library resources to locate published journal articles. Selections from books, etc. that are not otherwise available will be posted in the files section on Webcourses.

Core Syllabus Statements
This section contains course policies that are standardized across all UCF courses and are supplemental to all UCF course syllabi.

Academic Integrity
Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct at <https://scai.sdes.ucf.edu/student-rules-of-conduct/>. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in

1. Unauthorized assistance: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
2. Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
3. Commercial Use of Academic Material: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
4. Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.
5. Plagiarism: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
6. Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
7. Helping another violate academic behavior standards.
8. Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements.

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating
Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule* <https://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/>. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and respond to academic misconduct when necessary. Penalties for violating rules, policies, and instructions within this course can range from a zero on the exercise to an "F" letter grade in the course. In addition, an Academic Misconduct report could be filed with the Office of Student Conduct, which could lead to disciplinary warning, disciplinary probation, or deferred suspension or separation from the University through suspension, dismissal, or expulsion with the addition of a "Z" designation on one's transcript.
Being found in violation of academic conduct standards could result in a student having to disclose such behavior on a graduate school application, being removed from a leadership position within a student organization, the recipient of scholarships, participation in University activities such as study abroad, internships, etc.

Let's avoid all of this by demonstrating values of honesty, trust, and integrity. No grade is worth compromising your integrity and moving your moral compass. Stay true to doing the right thing: take the zero, not a shortcut.

Course Accessibility Statement
The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need access to course content due to course design limitations should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/> (Ferrell Commons 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone 407-823-2371). For students connected with SAS, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential course access and accommodations that might be necessary and reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student. Further conversation with SAS, faculty and the student may be warranted to ensure an accessible course experience.

Campus Safety Statement
Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise during class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of their surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.
- Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Students should make a note of the guide's physical location and review the online version at <https://centralflorida-prod.modolabs.net/student/safety/index>.
- Students should know the evacuation routes from each of their classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.
- If there is a medical emergency during class, students may need to access a first-aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those are located, see <https://ehs.ucf.edu/automated-external-defibrillator-aed-locations>.
- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <www.getrave.com/login/ucf> and logging in. On the "My Account" tab, fill out the information, including e-mail address and cell phone number.
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.
- To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing this video (<https://youtu.be/NIKYajEx4pk>).

Campus Safety Statement for Students in Online-Only Courses
Though most emergency situations are primarily relevant to courses that meet in person, such incidents can also impact online students, either when they are on or near campus to participate in other courses or activities or when their course work is affected by off-campus emergencies. The following policies apply to courses in online modalities.

- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <www.getrave.com/login/ucf> and logging in. On the "My Account" tab, fill out the information, including e-mail address and cell phone number.
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.

Deployed Active Duty Military Students
Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

Make-Up Assignments for Authorized University Events or Co-curricular Activities
Students who represent the university in an authorized event or activity (for example, student-athletes) and who are unable to meet a course deadline due to a conflict with that event must provide the instructor with documentation in advance to arrange a make-up. No penalty will be applied. For more information, see the UCF policy at <https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/4-401.pdf>

Religious Observances
Students must notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class for a religious observance. For more information, see the UCF policy at <http://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5/documents/5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALJan19.pdf>.

Title IX Policy
Title IX prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and retaliation. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find resources available to support the victim, including confidential resources and information concerning reporting options at https://letsbeclear.ucf.edu and http://cares.sdes.ucf.edu/.

Additional Syllabus Statements

Culture of Inclusion
The University of Central Florida considers the diversity of its students, faculty, and staff to be a strength and critical to its educational mission. UCF expects every member of the university community to be respectful in classrooms, work environments, and at campus events. Dimensions of diversity can include sex, race, age, national origin, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, intellectual and physical ability, sexual orientation, income, faith and non-faith perspectives, socio-economic class, political ideology, education, primary language, family status, military experience, cognitive style, and communication style. The individual intersection of these experiences and characteristics must be valued in our community.

University Writing Center
Trevor Colbourn Hall 109
Satellite Locations: Main Library, Rosen Library, Online
407-823-2197
http://uwc.cah.ucf.edu/
The University Writing Center (UWC) offers writing support to students from first-year to graduate in every discipline. Tutors provide help at every stage of the writing process, including understanding assignments, researching, drafting, revising, incorporating sources, and learning to proofread and edit. The UWC's purpose is not merely to fix or edit papers, but to teach writing strategies that can be applied to any writing situation. Consultations are available for individuals and small groups. You may schedule a 45-minute appointment by clicking the *Success Resources* tab on Webcourses, calling the UWC at 407-823-2197, or through the UWC website.
The UWC seeks graduate and undergraduate tutors from all majors. To learn more about becoming a writing tutor, please contact us.

Campus Resources
You should be aware that help is available if you are struggling with this course! First see me, your instructor: I want you to understand the material and would be most pleased to help if you are having trouble. Other resources include the Student Academic Resource Center (SARC), for supplemental instruction and academic tutoring, and the University Writing Center.

Turnitin.com
In this course we will utilize turnitin.com, an automated system which instructors can use to quickly and easily compare each student's assignment with billions of web sites, as well as an enormous database of student papers that grows with each submission. Accordingly, you will be expected to submit assignments through the Canvas Assignment Tool in electronic format. After the assignment is processed, as an instructor I receive a report from turnitin.com that states if and how another author's work was used in the assignment. For a more detailed look at this process, visit http://www.turnitin.com.

Academic Activity and Financial Aid
All instructors/faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. To document that you began this course, please complete the academic activity on Webcourses by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

Class Schedule

Part I – The History and Evolution of Human Rights

Week 1
Introduction to the Course

August 21
Class Intro and Syllabus Overview

August 23
Class discussion/activity – Defining Human Rights

August 25
Read: https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2018/06/global-backlash-against-human-rights

Important: First Assignment
Students must document academic activity in the Webcourses in the first week of classes. Complete the assignment created in the Webcourses by **Friday, August 25th.**

Week 2
What are Human Rights and Do They Matter?

August 28
Jack Donnelly, chapter 1

August 30
Jack Donnelly, chapter 2
https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights

September 1
Video Assignment #1 – online

Week 3
History of Human Rights

September 4 – Labor Day (no classes)

September 6
Jack Donnelly, chapter 5

September 8
Discussion #1 – online

Week 4
Human Rights and Cultural Relativism

September 11
Jack Donnelly, chapter 6

September 13
Jack Donnelly, chapter 7

September 15
Select country and human rights topic by 11:59PM
Discussion #2 – online

Week 5
Internationalization of Human Rights and the United Nations

September 18
Jack Donnelly, chapter 8

September 20
Jack Donnelly, chapter 11.1 – 11.3

September 22
Jack Donnelly, chapter 11.4 – 11.6

Week 6
Human Rights, Foreign Policy, and Non-State Actors

September 25
Jack Donnelly, chapter 12

September 27
Jack Donnelly, chapter 9

September 29
Submit paper proposals by 11:59PM
Video assignment #2 – online

Week 7
Midterm Exam

October 2
Study Day – no class

October 4
Review Day

October 6
Midterm Exam from 2:30-3:20 PM

Part II – Contemporary Issues in Human Rights

Week 8
Ethnic Conflict, Genocide, Pluralism, and Human Rights

October 9
Jack Donnelly, chapter 15

October 11
Jack Donnelly, chapter 16

October 13
https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/new-humanitarian-order/

Week 9
Human Rights, Democratization, and Development

October 16
Jack Donnelly, chapter 13

October 18
Jack Donnelly, chapter 14

October 20

https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/democracy
Short introduction: how to read academic article.

Week 10
Humanitarian Intervention

October 23

Western, J. & Goldstein, J. S. (2011). Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age: Lessons From Somalia to Libya. In *Foreign Affairs* (Vol. 90, Issue 6, pp. 48–59). Council on Foreign Relations.

October 25

https://georgetownsecuritystudiesreview.org/2023/05/03/climate-change-and-boots-on-the-ground-a-new-frontier-for-humanitarian-intervention/

October 27

(1) https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2023/02/28/would-an-armed-humanitarian-intervention-in-haiti-be-legal-and-could-it-succeed/
(2) https://www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/the-case-for-international-humanitarian-intervention-in-ukraine/

Week 11
Women's Rights

October 30

www.un.org/en/preventgenocide/rwanda/assets/pdf/Backgrounder%20Sexual%20Violence%202014.pdf
Cohen, D. K. (2013). Explaining rape during civil war: Cross-national evidence (1980–2009). *American Political Science Review*, *107*(03), 461-477.

November 1

Altunjan, T. (2021). The International Criminal Court and Sexual Violence: Between Aspirations and Reality. *German Law Journal, 22*(5), 878-893. doi:10.1017/glj.2021.45

November 3

https://womensmediacenter.com/women-under-siege/when-rape-became-a-war-crime-hint-its-not-when-you-think1

Week 12
Human Rights and Militarization

November 6

https://international-review.icrc.org/articles/militarization-and-privatization-of-security-923

November 8

(1) https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/11/17/us-reject-texas-border-militarization

(2) https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/09/mexico-militarizing-public-security-human-rights-violations-impunity/

November 10 – Veterans Day (no classes)

Week 13
Refugees and Internally Displaced Populations

November 13
https://www.icrc.org/en/document/internally-displaced-people

November 15
Human Mobility and Human Rights in the COVID-19 Pandemic: Principles of Protection for Migrants, Refugees, and Other Displaced Persons. (2020). *International Journal of Refugee Law, 32*(3), 549–558. https://doi.org/10.1093/ijrl/eeaa028

November 17
https://www.unhcr.org/us/about-unhcr/who-we-protect/internally-displaced-people

Week 14
Human Rights Issue Paper Due

November 20
Human Rights Issue Paper Due by 11:59 PM

November 22 – Thanksgiving Wednesday (no classes – offices still open)

November 24 – Thanksgiving (no classes)

Week 15
Torture, Censorship, and Human Rights

November 27
(1) https://www.hrw.org/topic/torture
(2) https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-against-torture-and-other-cruel-inhuman-or-degrading

November 29
Exam Review

December 1
Study Day (Last day of Classes)

FINAL EXAM
Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 1:00 PM – 3:50 PM

Note: This syllabus is subject to change at instructor's discretion if necessary. Changes to the syllabus, if any, will be announced in class and the updated syllabus will be posted on Webcourses.