Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Master of Arts

of

ALEXANDER (SASHA) KOVALCHUK

BPAPM (Carleton University, 2012)

“Civis Sacer: Peacekeeper Abuse and International Order”

Department of Political Science

Monday, September 12, 2016
9:00 A.M.
Harry Hickman Building
Room 120

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Scott Watson, Department of Political Science, University of Victoria (Supervisor)

External Examiner:
Dr. Cindy Holder, Department of Philosophy, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Richard van Oort, Department of English, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies
Abstract

Although United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO) are said to protect humanitarian rights, peacekeepers are found to commit sexual assault, war crimes, and gross negligence. International legal immunities grant peacekeepers and the UN from criminal liability and civil litigation. Whereas the literature on peacekeeper abuses conceptualizes the problem to be one of implementation of immunities, this thesis contends that such views are uncritical towards peacekeeping, immunity itself, and international society that organizes UNPKO. I theorize that the legal structures permitting such abuses (e.g. the UN Charter) render individuals expendable and hence objectified for the sake of international order. The argument presents a case study of the Srebrenica Massacre and ensuing legal cases to illustrate how immunities objectify individuals. Drawing on Agamben's theory of homo sacer, I introduce the term civis sacer to describe individuals excluded from international law with UNPKO immunities that objectifies them for the sake of maintaining international order.