Human Rights in International Law

Dr. Cindy Holder
Office Hours: Thurs 2-3:30
(250) 721-7516
clholder@uvic.ca

Course Description: This course introduces students to key concepts and theories in international debates about human rights. The readings focus on ethical and theoretical issues raised by the international human rights law and practices. The assignments and course material are designed to give students a basic understanding of international human rights concepts, legal regimes and institutions, and to enable them to identify ethical and theoretical issues with these and similar concepts, legal regimes and institutions.

Evaluation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 page response to readings (x3)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>DUE MON. FEB. 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-10 page paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>DUE MON. MAR 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-5 page research outline/case study summary</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>DUE MON. APR. 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-20 page research paper</td>
<td>45%</td>
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Late assignments will be penalized in the amount of 5% per day they are late, to a maximum of 50%.

Grading Scale:

About the 1-page responses: Responses should not be more than 1 page double-spaced and should discuss an issue, argument or topic from the readings of the week in which they are handed in. Responses are due by 12 pm on Tues of the week in which the readings are assigned; they may be handed in by email.

About the 7-10 page paper: The topic of this term paper must be drawn from at least one of the readings covered in the first three weeks of class (i.e., readings listed under Jan 7, Jan 14 or Jan 21).

About the research outline/case study summary: Research outlines should briefly outline the student’s proposed paper topic, or case study. Summaries should give a brief overview of the case study, an overview of the political, social and legal facts necessary for a reader to understand the relevant questions and issues, and an explanation of at least one theoretical issue or question that it raises or settles. A tentative bibliography should be attached to the outline or summary.

About the research paper: The research paper must draw on one of the readings listed in the syllabus from Jan 28 onward. Students may write on a case study but they do not have to do so. Whatever the topic chosen, students are strongly encouraged to speak to me about it ahead of time.
Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated. Such actions are contrary to the University’s academic regulations, and they show a profound disrespect for myself, for fellow students and for the university as an institution of higher learning. For more information please see the University’s Policy on Academic Integrity (web.uvic.ca/calendar/FACS/UnIn/UARe/PoAcI.html)

Texts

Coursepack (available through CourseSpaces and on Reserve at the Main Library)

Schedule of Readings:
This is the anticipated schedule of readings for the semester. Dates and reading assignments may change over the course of the term. Changes will always be announced in class ahead of time.

Jan 7


Jan 14


Jan 21


Elisabeth Jay Friedman, “Re(gion)alizing Women’s Human Rights in Latin America”, Politics & Gender, 5 (2009), 349–375.


Jan 28


Feb 4


Feb 11  READING BREAK: NO CLASS

7-10 page papers due Mon. Feb 16 before 4 pm

Feb 18


Feb 25


3-5 page research outline/case study due Mon. Mar 2 before 4 pm

Mar 4


Mar 11


Mar 18


Mar 25
TBD