

**San Jos State University**  
**Department of Justice Studies**  
**JS171, Online, Human Rights and Justice, Section 86, Fall Semester, 2019**

**Course Description**

Interdisciplinary exploration of human rights instruments, institutions, and notable human rights campaigns. The historical development of human rights and contemporary threats to the realization of fundamental dignity for humans and non-humans will also be explored.

**Course Format**

This course is online, with class participation taking place in the form of posting to online discussions on Canvas (and assignment descriptions posted to Canvas, and submitted there on \_\_\_\_\_ will be posted each week, and students are expected to post discussion points at least once a week.

**GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

GELO 1: Compare systematically the ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, economic structures, technological developments, and/or attitudes of people from more than one culture outside the U.S. This learning objective will be assessed in discussion posts and the in-depth research assignment students submit as their final evaluation.

GELO 2: Identify the historical context of ideas and cultural traditions outside the U.S. and how they have influenced American culture. This learning objective will be assessed by students demonstrating their familiarity with the backgrounds of key instruments in required regular discussion and assignments such as quizzes and essays (as well as discussion posts particularly those that task students with reflecting on set articles/reports/readings). It is also likely to be evident in the in-depth research assignment given that students are tasked with contextualizing human rights issues.

GELO 3: Explain how a culture outside the U.S. has changed in response to internal and external pressures. This learning objective will be assessed in online discussion.

**Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. CLO 1 - Read, write, and contribute to online discussion (via Canvas) at a skilled and capable level.
2. CLO 2 - Recognize and acce  
according to

international law (such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) via online and library

resources.

3. CLO 3 - Recognize and access the reports of central oversight agencies, such as Amnesty

International and Human Rights Watch, that report on human rights abuses to the United Nations

and global populace via online and library resources.

4. CLO 4 -  
and non-

human animals by various cultures throughout the world.

5. CLO 5 - Apply a human rights discourse to analyze social problems, policies, and practices in the

U.S.

### **Required Texts/Readings Textbooks**

Links to required readings (online) will be posted every Monday, beginning Mon August 26th 2019. These are essential material.

### **Recommended Text**

Armaline, W., D.S. Glasberg, and B. Purkayastha [Eds.] (2011) *Human rights in our own backyard: Injustice and resistance in The United States*. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press.

<http://catalog.sjlibrary.org/record=b4783900>. Please note that this text will be referred to in the section of this guide that deals with your weekly topics and reading schedule, as HRIOOBY, with the relevant chapter indicated. For instance: HRIOOBY, chapter 3. **It is strongly recommended that you read it.**

Other readings will be required (and posted to Canvas) from time to time. You are required to read and post to Canvas, in addition to the requirements listed below, as and when indicated.

Students may wish to sign up for the *Human Rights Watch Daily Brief* to stay updated on current human rights and justice news and events:

<http://action.hrw.org/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=1908&ea.campaign.id=40786>

well as being of general relevance and interest)

- < <http://www.un.org/en/sections/what-we-do/protect-human-rights/index.html> - United Nations (UN) and Human Rights
- < <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/WelcomePage.aspx> - UN Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

completed to successfully pass this course.

- < Midterm quiz (20%, aligned with CLO 2, CLO 5; GELO 2, GELO 3)
- < Final evaluation (20%, aligned with CLO 1, CLO 5, CLO 6; GELO 1, GELO 2, GELO 3)

Details for each assignment will be posted on Canvas. Each assignment must be completed on time or students risk failing the course.

### **Grading Information**

encouraged to ask questions via email to ensure they understand expectations. Rubrics will be provided on Canvas.

### **Determination of Grades**

a variety of tasks. Exams and final grades will be calculated as a percentage on a typical grade of zero.

Contact the professor early if you are having difficulty completing assignments or need accommodations for disabilities or absences for religious holidays.

The final course grade will be calculated based on the following standard scale:

- < 98-100 A+
- < 94-97 A
- < 90-93 A-
- < 88-89 B+
- < 84-87 B
- < 80-83 B-
- < 78-79 C+
- < 74-77 C
- < 70-73 C-
- < 68-69 D+
- < 64-67 D
- < 60-63 D-
- < <60 F

### **Classroom Protocol**

Students are expected to participate in all online discussions, debates and activities in a respectful and mindful manner.

Specifically:

1. Students are expected to deposit/submit assignments and discussion posts to our online class on time, prepared to take part in their own and collective learning.
2. All online classroom participants are expected to foster an environment that encourages participation, and that is respectful to others and their opinions.
3. Students are expected to complete graded assignments by the time indicated in this syllabus. Late assignments will not be graded.
4. Students are responsible for making up material missed in their absence on their own.
5. The due dates listed in the course schedule, below (see in particular dates accompanied





10 Mon 10/28

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS TBD**

**Reflection week and discussion post: human rights**

11 Mon 11/04



[rights-and-national-security](#)); Amnesty International,  
<http://www.amnestyusa.org/our-work/issues/security-and-human-rights>)

**Reflection week and discussion post: security and cultural relativism**

(post due no later than 5 pm Fri 12/06)

*Required reading*

15 Mon 12/02

Rights Quarterly (available here:

<http://mym.cdn.laureate-media.com/2dett4d/Walden/PSPA/3040/02/Donnelly.pdf>

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2014/dec/04/-sp-case-against-human-rights>)

**Last Day of Teaching**

16 Mon 11/09

**Current human rights campaigns: Human Rights Watch**

*Required reading:* Your choice of a current campaign from anywhere in the world outlined on the HRW