San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS 25, Introduction to Human Rights and Justice - Fall 2021

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice.

Students will be notified of changes to the schedule or assigned readings via announcements in Canvas/email.

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Roni Abusaad, Ph.D.
Email:	Via Canvas preferred, alternately: roni.abusaad@sjsu.edu
Office hours	By appointment - contact me to set up
Class Days/Time:	Online
GE Category:	D3 Social Issues

Course Description

From Catalog: "This course is a lower division introduction to the history of human rights as a concept and body of international law, and to the complicated role of human rights in contemporary social justice campaigns."

This course explores the following:
> The origin of human rights (as an idea and body of law)
> The definition of human rights in international law (i.e. through human rights instruments, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights)?
> Functions of the major international courts (ICC and ICJ)
> Significant human rights related international NGOs and their workings
> The relationship between international human rights and human rights struggles and social problems in the U.S. and local communities

Class Overview

The expectation is that you will spend **3-6 hours on each module.** First you should complete the readings, then work through the module deck, watching videos and completing the assignments which include class participation and reflections. You will need to complete work every week. All quizzes and tests are cumulative and may include material from any point in the course preceding that assessment. Please send all communication via Canvas. This is where you will complete quizzes and submit assignments, as well.

Course Format - Technology Intensive, Online Course
This is an online-only course. There are no class meetings. Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas Leaning Management System course login website at http://sjsu.instructure.com. All work is completed online on the Canvas website. Students must be able to connect regularly to the internet to complete the course requirements. Your computer must have video and audio playback features to access assigned videos and audiofiles from outside websites (e.g., YouTube, NPR). You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU on Spartan App Portal http://one.sjsu.edu to learn of any updates.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

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

> (GELO1) Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts.
> (GELO2) Identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them.
> (GELO3) Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues.
> (GELO4) Students will be able to apply multidisciplinary material to a topic relevant to policy and social action at the local, national, and/or international levels.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

The goals of this course are to (1) give students a basic understanding of the events, actors and ideas that gave rise to the concept of human rights; (2) give students a basic understanding of international human rights law and a general familiarity with common human rights instruments; (3) give students the opportunity to grapple with the complicated relationship in theory and practice between human rights and social justice. As part of this last goal, students will become relatively familiar with several contemporary human rights campaigns.

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

> (CLO1) Recall a general history of human rights including the significant events, actors, and ideas that gave rise to the concept of human rights.
> ___(CLO2) Demonstrate a general familiarity with major human rights instruments and how these instruments work with regard to international (treaty) law.
> ___(CLO3) Demonstrate a familiarity with several current human rights campaigns (domestic and international), reporting agencies (Human Rights Watch,

Amnesty International, etc.), and policy debates.

Preparing for success

I want you to have success in this class and to have a powerful learning experience. Especially in an online class like this where you are driving your own learning, you truly get as much out of the class as you put in. To prepare for the semester:

1. Review this syllabus in depth. It should have answers to all your questions.
2. Download the [Respondus Lockdown Browser](). You will need this in order to take quizzes and should make sure you don't have any trouble installing it before the day of the quiz. [Link to download is here]().
3. Get oriented to Canvas. This is where you'll submit all of your assignments. You can see all of these with the due dates under "Syllabus." This is also the best place to send me messages.
4. Plan ahead. Review the upcoming assignments and material and don't wait until the last minute. It is especially important to look at the requirements detailed in the rubric, which clearly outline the grading criteria. Reviewing in advance allows for time to navigate any technical difficulties or to reach out to me with clarification and questions.

Library Liaison

For help with library resources and library research (including the use of databases and online research materials—such as journal search engines), students are strongly encouraged to contact the Justice Studies Library Liaison: Nyle Monday - Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu, (408)808-2118.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Timely completion of all assignments including; online discussions, reflections, quizzes, midterm, final and any assigned activity.

Quizzes
All quizzes will be administered via Canvas. They will have a time limit of 45 minutes and can be taken at any point during the week they are assigned on the syllabus and must be completed before that Sunday at 11:59 p.m.

Reflections
Each reflection should have a minimum of 700 words and include these elements:
1. Introduction: (introduce main ideas and key takeaways from the readings, videos, and activities from the previous week)
2. Body of your essay (details about main concepts and your takeaways, realizations, questions and reflections on this newly acquired knowledge from the videos, readings and activities).
3. Conclusion (sums up everything you wrote concisely)

Mid Term and Final Exams

There will be a midterm and final exam in this course to cover all course material and topics discussed and assigned. Both exams will be relatively straight forward, in a multiple-choice format, with both retention and application questions designed to evaluate students' substantive grasp of course material. Each of these exams will be worth **25%** of the final course grade (GELO 1-4; CLO 1-3).

Grading Information

Grades will be calculated from a weighted point system. There are no "curves" applied to grades in this course.

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade
Quizzes	10%
Reflections	25%
Class Participation (Assigned activities and participation on discussion threads)	15%
Mid-Term Exam	25%
Final Exam (not cumulative)	25%
TOTAL	**100%**

Grading Scale

Exams and final grades will be calculated as a percentage on a typical "10 point 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

1. This course depends on participation and independent learning via online resources. Students are expected to complete all assignments in a timely fashion.
2. Students are expected to complete all readings and assignments by the due dates indicated on the syllabus. There will be no extension for any assignment.
3. Students will be tested on acquired knowledge regularly throughout the course, any questions should be directed to the instructor of the course ahead of time.

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All materials, including readings and videos, can be downloaded for use offline so that you can keep up with your studies. However, assignments and quizzes should be completed and submitted on time. For anticipated conflicts with this, please reach out to me in advance to see if accommodation is possible.

I'm having technical issues with Canvas or the Respondus Lockdown browser. What do I do?
I cannot provide technical support (definitely not my area of expertise!). If you need any technical help, reach out to the student help desk or computer lab. I highly recommend that students take quizzes and exams at the campus computer lab where they can get technical support immediately.

Course Schedule

Note: The following course schedule is subject to change with fair notice.
Visit the course website on Canvas for articles and readings and check regularly for announcements and updates to the syllabus and course schedule.

See the **Key Resources section** at the top of the modules in Canvas for documents that you'll reference throughout the course.

Module	Topics and Readings	Assignments	Due Date for all readings and assignments
1	**Introduction to the Course** Review the full syllabus in depth. Read the excerpt from the Human Rights Toolkit	**Class participation #1** Introductions **Complete the "Check-in: Ready for Success?" quiz.** **Opening Reflection**	8/21
2	**Introduction to Human Rights History and Theory**	**Class participation #2** Discussion: What does the public know about human rights? **Quiz #1**	8/27

Discimination and Cultural Rights) and
be submitted via Canvas.

Reflection instructions

10 **Security, Torture and Human Rights**

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