



Human Rights - POLS 3923 Section 101  
College of Humanities & Social Science  
Prothro-Yeager Rm 209  
POLS 3923 Section 101  
TR 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM  
Spring 2023 | Jan 17 - May 13

#### Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Gabriela Okundaye (“oh-kun-die”)  
Office: O’Donohoe Hall 204  
Office hours: MW 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM & T 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM  
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#### Course Description

This course examines the major theories of human rights, including the origins of human rights and conflicts between rights, as well as human rights protection and advocacy around the world. It examines the legal and political challenges of protecting global human rights by states, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

#### Textbook & Instructional Materials

Chen, C., & Renteln, A. (2022). *International Human Rights: A Survey*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/9781108652438

#### Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2020-21](#)

#### Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual’s to whom credit is given). The use of artificial intelligence software such as spinbots or ChatGPT are also prohibited and counts as an act of plagiarism. Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

## Grading

Table 1: Percentage allocated to each assignment

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Points</b>
Research Paper	20
In-Class Activities	20
Midterm Exam	30
Final Exam	30
<b>Total Percent</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 2: Total percentage for final grade.

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Points</b>
A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79
D	60 - 69
F	Less than 60

## Exams

This class will have two exams. A midterm and a final. Both of these exams will cover the first half and second half of the class. The format for the exams will include two parts. The first part of the exam will feature ten (10) key terms. Of the ten (10) key terms you will then choose five (5) and of those five (5) you will need to identify and define each term and state the importance the term has for human rights. The second part of the exam will ask you to choose one (1) out of three (3) essay topics and write an essay based on the prompt.

## Discussion

International Human Rights is a relatively new subfield of social science. As a result, it is important to discuss the topics in-depth. I believe all students enrolled in this class can contribute to the study of International Human Rights and participate in the in-class activities. Most activities will be centered around discussion and it will be necessary for you to read and be aware of the topics of discussion for each week of class.

## Class Presentation

The topics in this class on human rights focuses on topics such as labor, rights, and socio-economic rights, and environmental just to name a few. In this class, each student will have to choose two topics that they will give a short presentation on describing the history, significance, and modern-day importance to the rise and creation of the treaty or treaties that make human rights significant.

## Research Paper

Finally, this class will have a research project that will be due at the end of the semester. The research paper will be submitted in parts to ensure that you are closing in on the tasks and directions listed for each portion. By the end of the second week you will need to choose a topic that relates to human rights and conduct research on the topic of the student's choice. More details on the paper to follow.

#### Extra Credit

This class will have limited extra credit opportunities. These extra credit opportunities will be announced via D2L. The type of extra credit opportunities that may be given during the course may come from a podcast, a documentary, or a current event. Extra credit assignments are worth one additional point towards the total grade in class.

#### Late Work

Nearly every assignment with the exception of midterm and exams, will be open for several days at a time. Therefore, I will not accept any late work in this class unless you have a university-excused absence. **No work will be accepted after the final day of class (April 28th).**

#### Make Up Work/Tests

Absences due to required participation in university-sponsored activities must be approved by the college dean or Athletic Director and the Provost. Students with written approval must present a signed letter or memo to each instructor at least two (2) class days prior to the date of the absence. Only prior notification can guarantee lack of penalty for these absences. It is the responsibility of the student to arrange with the instructor to make-up all work missed during an authorized absence.

#### Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: January 20.  
Deadline to file for graduation: February 20.  
Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" March 27.  
Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

#### Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

#### Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. In those classes where attendance is considered as part of the grade, the instructor should inform students of the specifics in writing at the beginning of the semester in a syllabus or separate attendance policy statement. An instructor who has an attendance policy must keep records on a daily basis. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped from the class. Instructor's records will stand as evidence of absences. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. Any individual faculty member or college has the authority to establish an attendance policy, providing the policy is in accordance with the General University Policies.

### Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ***\*Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. **\*Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

### Email Etiquette

Sending emails is a part of the professionalization development that students are expected to go through while they are in college. When you send me (or any other professor) an email please be sure to address the reader with the correct title, use appropriate grammar in the subject line and body of the email, and be brief and to the point. For more information on how to write a professional email visit the websites below.

[How to Write a Professional Email](#)

[Email Etiquette for Students](#)

### Announcements

Be sure to check your email as this is how information for this class will be distributed. Announcements will be posted on D2L and will be sent to the email linked to D2L which is more likely than not your system email.

## Class Etiquette

Political Science and government classes often discuss topics that have the potential to ignite feelings for many. This class may do so and it is important for everyone to remember to be respectful of others beliefs should it become a point of topic. However, if any discussion becomes hostile towards another student or the instructor I, the instructor, reserve the right to remove students that have expressed what can be interpreted as hate speech towards race/ethnicity/gender/class/sexual expression. If you are not sure what may be interpreted as hate speech email me beforehand. Additionally, please review the link below that discusses classroom etiquette and conduct.

### [Classroom Etiquette](#)

## Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

## Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

## Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

## College Policies

## Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

## Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

## Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

## Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

## Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

## Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Due Date
Week 1 1/17 - 1/21	Overview of Human Rights	
Week 2 1/23 - 1/27	Human Rights Machinery: Enforcement Mechanisms <b>Research Paper Installment I DUE</b>	1/27
Week 3 1/30 - 2/3	Genocide	
Week 4 2/6 - 2/10	Torture	
Week 5 2/13 - 2/17	The Death Penalty and Cruel, Degrading, and Inhuman Punishment	
Week 6 2/20 - 2/24	Socio-Economic Rights	
Week 7 2/27 - 3/3	Cultural Rights <b>MIDTERM</b>	3/3 at 11:59 PM
Week 8 3/6 - 3/10	Environmental Protection & Human Rights <b>Research Paper Installment II DUE</b>	3/10 at 11:59 PM
3/13 - 3/17	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	
Week 9 3/20 - 3/24	Indigenous Rights	
Week 10 3/27 - 3/31	The Rights of Persons with Disabilities	
4/3 - 4/7	<b>Holiday Break</b>	
Week 12 4/10 - 4/14	Labor Rights as Human Rights  Children's Rights	
Week 13 4/17 - 4/21	Women's Rights	
Week 14 4/24 - 4/28	LGBTQ+ Rights <b>Research Paper Installment III DUE</b>	4/28 at 11:59 PM
Week 15 5/1 - 5/5	Media & Human Rights	
Week 16 5/8 - 5/12	<b>FINAL</b>	5/9 at 11:59 PM

Note: Syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.