

Comparative Politics of Human Rights

Spring 2012: PSC 365.02 Comparative Politics of Human Rights

Wednesdays 4:00-6:45 pm Goddard 217

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Office Location: Webb Hall 341

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:30 – 3:45 pm
Wednesdays, 3:15 – 3:45 pm
Thursdays, 1:30 – 3:45 pm

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Course Website: <http://its.easternct.edu/webct/>

Course Content:

Comparative Politics of Human Rights will focus on a selection of contemporary human rights problems such as the use of torture and women's rights. Specific cases will be used to examine the international treaty system, national legal conventions, and the relationship between international human rights regimes and domestic implementation and enforcement. Each week students will read 2-3 chapters from the textbooks as well as selecting at least 1 article in either *Human Rights Quarterly* or the *International Journal of Human Rights* to read.

Students will write reaction papers responding to both the textbook reading as well as the journal article every week. The reaction papers will be used to structure class discussions and offer students an opportunity to select research articles that help them develop their final research paper, which is due on the last day of class. This course is a comparative politics/international relations elective for the major as well as an elective in the peace and human rights minor.

Required Textbooks:

DeLaet, Debra L. 2005. "The Global Struggle for Human Rights: Universal Principles in World Politics, 1st ed." Thomson Wadsworth. ISBN-13: 9780534635725

Goodhart, Michael. 2009. "Human Rights: Politics and Practice." Oxford University Press, USA: ISBN-13: 9780199540846

Readings:

The assigned materials should be read before class on the date they are listed in the schedule at the end of the syllabus.

Grading Distribution:

- Class Participation in Discussions, Debates, and Activities (28%)
- 12 Reaction Papers (36%)
- Research Paper (36%)

Grading Policy:

When students receive grades on any individual assignment, your raw score is listed (the points received for that assignment). At the end of the semester, all these scores are added up. The maximum number of points a student can receive is 100 points. Listed below is the system by which the total sum of grades (also a percentage) will be converted to a final letter grade.*

Under 62.99% = F;	63.0-66.99 % = D;	67.0-69.99 % = D+;
70.0-72.99 % = C-;	73.0-76.99 % = C;	77.0-79.99 % = C+;
80.0-82.99 % = B-;	83.0-86.99 % = B;	87.0-89.99 % = B+;
90.0-92.99 % = A-;	93.0 or higher = A	

*** Please note that if a student engages in academic misconduct such as plagiarism or if the student misses two or more class sessions as unexcused absences, the instructor may revert the student's final grade to the grade of F, regardless of the sum of grades.**

Late Assignment Policy:

Our reading and homework schedule must be adhered to in a timely matter. Assignments are to be submitted on time on the course website, and a paper copy is to be submitted for grading in class. Reaction Papers are to be submitted on the class discussion board, whereas all other assignments are to be submitted using the "Assignment" function. All Assignments must be printed and turned in on time at the beginning of class on the date they are due.

After this deadline, the following deductions for lateness may take place:

- Assignment received within the first 24 hours: **-10% value of assignment.**
- Assignment received within the first 48 hours: **-20% value of assignment.**
- Unless there are mitigating circumstances and the student has previous written approval from the instructor for an extension, assignments received over 48 hours past the deadline will NOT be accepted any longer and will be assigned 0 points.

Class Participation in Discussions, Debates, and Activities (28% of the final grade)

Students are expected to attend all course sessions punctually and actively participate in the course discussions, activities, and group work. Students are expected to apply their own ideas, examples, and critical thinking in response to the readings. Class work is expected to be of a high caliber, involving critical analysis, grounded with concrete evidence. In our discussions, please consider both sides, be respectful of others' opinions, try to understand their perspective, and take turns as the devil's advocate, arguing an unpopular position.

Intensive reading is required for the course, and students are expected to come to class having completed the day's scheduled reading assignment, as well as having selected an article to review in either *Human Rights Quarterly* or the *International Journal of Human Rights*. You should make it a habit to review pertinent international news coverage, especially on the BBC.

Reaction Papers (36% of the final grade, due every class session)

Students will complete 12 (of 13 possible) reaction papers over the course of the semester. Reaction papers should be 2 pages long single-spaced, clearly summarize key arguments, concepts, and examples from the readings, and also bring in the students' own opinions and analysis.

Additionally, students are expected to use these reaction papers to begin exploring and discussing research articles in the following two journals: *Human Rights Quarterly* and *International Journal of Human Rights*. Each reaction paper should devote at least 1 to 2 paragraphs to discussing an article in one of these journals, on a topic connected to the readings or a topic of interest to the student because of their research paper. The article should be cited parenthetically and also in the list of references at the end of the Reaction Paper.

These papers should give students an opportunity to show that they have completed the readings, but also raise questions, bring in interesting debates and serve as a spur for discussion. Simply saying "I (don't) like ..." is not critical analysis; please be more specific in your analysis and feel free to ask interesting questions.

The reaction papers are to be posted in the discussion board before class starts. You are expected to post early enough so that you arrive to class on time (e.g., by 3 pm on Wednesdays). There is a late penalty for papers submitted after the start of the class session. Each paper is worth 3 points, and the maximum score possible is 36 points (36% of the final grade).

Students will be expected to cite research articles and other sources in the papers. The Chicago Manual of Style (with parenthetical citations in the body of the paper and references at the end) should be applied: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

For example, I might discuss international regimes (Abbott 1999). Any material I cited in my reaction paper, would also need to be included in the References list (see below).

References

Abbott, Kenneth W. 1999. "International Relations Theory, International Law, and the Regime Governing Atrocities in Internal Conflicts." *The American Journal of International Law* 93(2): 361-79.

Research Paper (36% of the final grade, due on May 2, 2012)

Students will choose an issue tied to the comparative politics of human rights on which to focus in the research paper, evaluating research and practice concerning that area. Students are expected to review at least 15 academic journal articles, as well as at least 5 news articles on the topic in their paper. The paper will likely be between 18-20 pages long. Academic journal articles are at least 14-18 pages long and are empirical (meaning that they present evidence, to test competing arguments and are NOT just theoretical). You may occasionally include an article that is just theoretical. At least half of the articles should come from the journals *Human Rights Quarterly* and *International Journal of Human Rights*.

Tips Regarding Your Papers:

Tips Concerning Submitting Assignments to the Instructor and to the Class:

- You are expected to submit both paper and electronic copies of the different assignments in the semester-long research project. Paper copies are due in person at the start of the class session (for grading), and electronic copies are due on Vista, on the due date.
- Please submit your papers as Microsoft Word attachments, but also copy and paste the text of the paper into the message, in case there are any problems with your attachment.
- It is your responsibility to be sure that you check any assignment you submit to be certain that you have submitted the correct, full version of the assignment. In case of an error, you can always resubmit the assignment immediately.
- Your assignments may be posted publicly for all the class to read. However, if there are special considerations you have when you submit any assignment, you can make a comment in your assignment, indicating your preference to keep some or all of the contents private.

Tips Concerning the Formatting of Your Papers:

- Microsoft Word document
- Times New Roman, size 12 point font
- Double-Spaced, 1 inch margins
- No Title Page
- A title of the paper in quotes at the top of the first page
- Header on each page with your name and the page number
- Indent new paragraphs
- Italicized headings to clarify sections
- Inclusion of parenthetical citations (T) and a list of references (R) (The references should be on a separate page titled References.) Use the following link to format cites and references: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Tips Concerning Writing Your Papers:

- Please include a clear introduction paragraph and a clear conclusion paragraph.
- Each paragraph should have a introductory and concluding sentence that explains what idea you are developing in the paragraph, and how it relates to what precedes and follows.
- Use varied transitions to emphasize how your argument is developing.
- Paragraphs should be at least 4-5 sentences long, on average. They should be clearly focused topically, and if you have a 2 sentence paragraph that should be an indicator to you that there are ideas which need development or reorganization.
- On the other hand, paragraphs should not be so extensive that they run longer than half a page to two-thirds of a page in length. If you notice that you have a paragraph that is too long, find a way to break it down into two paragraphs, based on the content.
- Be careful to edit your writing extensively for grammar, clarity, and parsimony. Often when a sentence is excessively long, you need to break it down into two sentences.

Check that each sentence clearly conveys what you mean, and make sure it has a subject, verb, et cetera. When you read each sentence, consider whether, if you had no previous information, the statement would be comprehensible to you.

- Make use of peer review at ECSU's Writing Center.
- A separate page, titled References, that lists references in the Chicago Style format (http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html) should be included. These sources should be sorted alphabetically and not be numbered.

Academic Integrity:

All your assignments will be checked to ensure that your writing is original and you are properly citing ideas that are not yours originally. Your writing will be checked using the SafeAssign tool in WebCT Vista. Your paper will be submitted and checked against the institutional and global references databases of papers, journal articles, as well as material available on the Internet. It is the understanding and expectation of the instructor that the student submits assignments in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and in particular, with the Policy on Academic Misconduct. This policy is available at:

<http://www.easternct.edu/ecsu/academicmisconduct/definitions.htm>

<http://www.easternct.edu/smithlibrary/library1/plagiarism/AcademicMisconduct.htm>

Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information. Cheating is not tolerated in my classroom, and I actively pursue punishment for dishonorable academic behavior.

Punishment for academic dishonesty can include receiving a grade of "F" for the course as well as possible subsequent disciplinary action.

Academic Honesty Provisions:

You must properly cite your work using the Chicago Manual of Style. Any quotations should be accompanied by both quotation marks and a parenthetical citation, and any ideas not originally your own but which are paraphrased should be accompanied by a parenthetical citation. Information which is not general knowledge should be substantiated using parenthetical citations. Each parenthetical citation should be accompanied by a reference list entry at the end of the paper.

PLEASE NOTE: You should be paraphrasing ideas in your own words and barely use quotations. I expect to see many citations and references which are correctly formatted.

- Please refer to this link for help on citation:
http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html
- Please pair an in-text parenthetical citation (T) with a reference list entry (R) at the end of a paper.
- Note: Wikipedia is NOT an acceptable source because it is an open source website subject to considerable bias, but you may use it to access hyperlinks to primary source material.

Please be sure to use this citation style consistently, and to cite appropriately:

- First of all, the papers you are writing for Research Methods should require you to use few quotations.
- All information that is paraphrased in your own words should have a parenthetical citation to the original source.
- All quotes should have “...” around them, as well as a parenthetical citation.
- It is not appropriate to merely “plunk down” quotes into a paper. They should be used selectively (no more than one short quote per paragraph), they should be introduced, and they should include at least one sentence explaining their relevance.
- No more than one direct quotation should be included per paragraph, on average!!!! (A paper should not be composed largely of quotes, and you should be very careful in your notes to distinguish quotes, so that you do not plagiarize from someone else’s material.)
- If you include “...” in your notes and track your sources in your notes, you will be less at risk of plagiarism.
- Make sure that you properly paraphrase your sources, truly putting ideas into your own words. Just changing a word or two, moving around words in a quote, is not paraphrasing. In fact, if you retain parts of a quote, you should leave quotation marks around those groupings of words.

Tips for Finding Useful Research Articles:

Research articles typically are 15-25 pages long, and they present competing theoretical arguments which are tested empirically with evidence.

To access any of the databases listed below where you can search for articles:

<http://www.easternct.edu/smithlibrary/library1/atoz.htm>

To access any of the journals listed below and search for articles:

<http://rk5xp5zc5h.search.serialssolutions.com/>

In case you are in need of help, there are a variety of ways to get assistance at the library:

<http://www.easternct.edu/smithlibrary/library1/askus.htm>

Databases I recommend include:

Academic Search Premier (Ebscohost)

Worldwide Political Science Abstracts

Project Muse

PAIS International

Columbia International Affairs Online

JSTOR

Ingenta

Blackwell Publishing

Sage Journals Online

Key journals in International Relations, Comparative Politics, and Political Science

American Journal of International Law

Comparative Politics

Comparative Political Studies

Democratization
European Journal of International Law
Global Governance
International Affairs
International Studies Quarterly
International Organization
Journal of Democracy
Journal of International Affairs
Journal of International Law and International Relations
The Journal of Politics
Political Science Quarterly
Political Studies
Politics and Society
Political Research Quarterly
PS, Political Science & Politics
Review of International Studies

Journals dealing with different regions of the world

African & Asian Studies
African Studies Review
American Journal of Political Science
American Political Science Review
Asian Affairs
Asian Journal of Political Science
Asian Studies Review
British Journal of Political Science
British Journal of Politics and International Relations
Canadian Journal of Political Science
Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East
European Journal of International Relations
European Journal of Political Research
European Review of Latin American & Caribbean Studies
European Union Politics
International Journal of Asian Studies
International Journal of Middle East Studies
Journal of Asian and African Studies
The Journal of Asian Studies
Journal of Contemporary African Studies
Journal of Contemporary Asia
Journal of Latin American Studies
Journal of Southern African Studies
Latin American Politics and Society
The Middle East Journal
Third World Quarterly
Middle East Policy
Middle East Quarterly (useful but often not empirical)

Middle Eastern Studies
West European Politics

Journals focused on Development and Developing Countries

European Journal of Development Research
Gender and Development
Gender, Technology and Development
Journal of Development Studies
Journal of International Development
Journal of International Relations and Development
Journal of Third World Studies
Progress in Development Studies
Third World Quarterly

Journals focused on Gender

Asian Journal of Women's Studies
European Journal of Women's Studies
Gender and Society
Journal of International Women's Studies
Journal of Middle East Women's Studies
Middle East Women's Studies Review
Politics & Gender

Journals focused on Human Rights

Human Rights Quarterly
International Journal of Human Rights
Law and Practice of International Courts and Tribunals

Journals focused on Civil Society

Mobilization
Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly
Nonprofit Management & Leadership
Voluntas

Journals focused on the Media

European Journal of Communication
Global Media and Communication
International Journal of Communication
International Journal of Press/Politics
International Journal of Media & Cultural Politics
New Media & Society
Media, Culture & Society
Political Communication

Journals focused on the Environment

African Journal of Ecology
Environment, Development and Sustainability
Environmental Politics (articles can be requested via inter-library loan)
Global Environmental Politics
International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics
International Journal of Sustainable Development and World Ecology
The Journal of Environment and Development
Review of European Community & International Environmental Law

Journals focused on Social Policy

Global Social Policy
Journal of European Social Policy
Journal of Policy Reform
Journal of Poverty
Social Policy (useful but often not empirical)

Journals focused on Immigration, Migration, Citizenship, and Refugee Issues

Citizenship Studies
European Journal of Migration and Law
Immigrants & Minorities
International Journal of Migration, Health & Social Care
International Migration
Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Services
Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies

Journals focused on Public Health

African Journal of Reproductive Health (useful but often not empirical)
American Journal of Public Health
European Journal of Public Health
Health Expectations (useful but often not empirical)
Journal of Health and Social Policy
Journal of HIV/AIDS & Social Services
Journal of Public Health Policy
Journal of Social Development in Africa

Journals focused on Peace, Conflict, and Conflict Resolution

Cooperation and Conflict
Conflict Management and Peace Science
International Journal of Conflict Management
International Journal of Peace Studies
International Negotiation
Journal of Conflict Resolution
Journal of Peace Research
Mobilization
Peace and Conflict

Journals focused on Defense, Foreign and Security Policy

Defence & Peace Economics
Defence Studies
Diplomacy and Statecraft
European Foreign Affairs Review
Foreign Affairs (useful but often not empirical)
Foreign Policy (useful but often not empirical)
Global Governance
International Negotiation
International Security
Journal of Human Security
Studies in Conflict and Terrorism

Journals focused on Criminal Justice

British Journal of Criminology
Canadian Journal of Criminology
European Journal of Crime, Crime Law, and Criminal Justice
European Journal of Criminology
Global Crime
International Criminal Law Review

Journals focused on Political Economy

International Journal of Political Economy
Journal of Political Economy
Oxford review of Economic Policy
Review of International Political Economy
Review of Political Economy

The following link should be used to help with formatting parenthetical citations (T) and references (R) to articles: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html. Please use parenthetical citations (T) such as (Clark and Schwedler 2003, 295). Here is an example of a reference entry (R) for a journal article:

Clark, Janine Astrid, and Jillian Schwedler. 2003. "Who Opened the Window? Women's Activism in Islamist Parties." *Comparative Politics* 35(3): 293-312.

Questions to Consider in Evaluating Research Articles:

1. Arguments in the Literature: What are the most important RIVAL or competing arguments about the topic that are discussed? Which possible causal factors are considered?
2. Trends in the Literature: What are the important trends/findings about the topic that are mentioned?
3. Results: What evidence/data is collected and presented by the author(s)? What are the key findings?
4. Conclusions: What are the main conclusions drawn by the author(s) in light of this evidence? Which arguments are supported or refuted by the evidence that they collected?

5. Critically analyze the arguments being tested, the research design, the results, or the conclusions drawn in the article.
6. Are there new developments that this article may or may not apply to? How?

Ramifications of Your Professionalism:

Please realize that your professionalism is something that I will gauge on several fronts, and it certainly will be essential in determining whether I will be willing to serve as a reference on your behalf in the future. Please take this into consideration in deciding what type of student you want to be in this course. Below are some factors that I will take into consideration. Please realize that they are all important, and that other factors also influence my decisions concerning serving as a reference or writing letters of recommendation, including the timing of a request.

- Enthusiasm and initiative
- Demonstrated punctuality and reliability (e.g., showing up on time to class and to meetings, turning work in on time). These are very important indicators of your maturity and your readiness to be dependable in the workplace or in graduate school.
- Professional behavioral conduct and your demeanor in your interactions with the instructor and with your peers, in class, meetings, e-mails, and discussion board postings
- Quality of work and work ethic (originality of ideas, critical analysis, completeness of work, and quality of revision of final drafts)
- Academic honesty and integrity
- Active learning: having a positive attitude, taking initiative to seek new challenges outside of your comfort zone
- Your understanding of important concepts and theoretical arguments, reflecting your reading of the class materials and participation in class sessions
- Your efforts to keep up with current political events internationally, especially in reading and discussing recent news coverage
- Ability to consider divergent perspectives and engage in respectful debate
- Teamwork and quality of cooperation with other students
- Quality of participation in discussions
- Ability to communicate clearly both verbally and in writing, as well as listening skills
- Ability to follow directions

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend class, having prepared the day's readings, and ready to participate fully in classroom activities. If you miss the attendance, it is your responsibility to make sure to remedy that at the end of class by speaking with the instructor. On dates when assignments are due, attendance is required. On other dates of the class, students are permitted one unexcused absence, but are then also themselves responsible for arranging to get missing lecture notes from other students. I urge students to be careful not to miss class sessions, because it is very easy to get lost if you do.

When students have accumulated two or more unexcused absences, the instructor may decide to give the student a failing grade in the course. Students will not be penalized for excused absences and will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up missed work, provided they take contact with the instructor in advance and provided they submit the necessary

documentation. On a case by case basis, the instructor will consider extenuating circumstances, but it is the student's obligation to be proactive about maintaining contact with the instructor.

Cell phones, I-pods, and electronic devices:

Please stow such devices (including earphones) in your bag, and turn them off during class. It is not acceptable to text-message or answer the telephone during class. Similarly, it is not acceptable to listen to an I-pod. Leave such devices home during exams.

Caveat Concerning the Flexibility of the Course Syllabus:

The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the course based on factors such as developments in international affairs, class discussion, the availability of reading materials, and the performance of the class. Major changes will be announced via an e-mail to the class, and the posting of an updated syllabus. Although such changes will not occur on a weekly basis, some adjustments during the semester may occur so as to maximize students' learning.

AccessAbility Services:

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with the Office of AccessAbility Services (OAS); Wood Support Services Center Room 240; 860-465-0136. Please feel free to come and talk with me about such accommodations early on in the semester.

Writing Assistance:

The Writing Center (Academic Services Center, Library 107, 860-465-0382) is a useful place to get some feedback on your writing.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Class	Date	Topics	Readings	Assignments
1	Wednesday, January 18, 2012	Introduction to Class	DeLaet (GS) Introduction and Goodhart (HR) Introduction	
2	Wednesday, January 25, 2012	The Contested Meaning of Human Rights, The Development of International Human Rights Law, and Are Human Rights Universal?	DeLaet (GS) Chapters 1, 2, and 3	Reaction Paper
3	Wednesday, February 01, 2012	Civil Rights, Political Rights, and Collective Rights in a World of Sovereign States	DeLaet (GS) Chapters 4 and 5	Reaction Paper
4	Wednesday, February 08, 2012	Economic and Social Rights in a World of Sovereign States, Sexual Equality and Human Rights	DeLaet (GS) Chapters 6 and 7	Reaction Paper
5	Wednesday, February 15, 2012	Promoting Human Rights from the Top Down, Punitive Justice and Human Rights	DeLaet (GS) Chapters 8 and 9	Reaction Paper
6	Wednesday, February 22, 2012	Restorative Justice and Human Rights, Promoting Human Rights from the Bottom Up	DeLaet (GS) Chapters 10 and 11	Reaction Paper
7	Wednesday, February 29, 2012	Normative and Theoretical Foundations of Human Rights, Human Rights in International Law, and Measuring Human Rights	Goodhart (HR) Chapters 1, 2, and 3	Reaction Paper

8	Wednesday, March 07, 2012	Human Rights in International Relations, Comparative Politics, Sociology, and Anthropology	Goodhart (HR) Chapters 4, 5, and 6	Reaction Paper
9	Wednesday, March 14, 2012	Ideological (Mis)use of Human Rights, Political Democracy and State Repression	Goodhart (HR) Chapters 7 and 8	Reaction Paper
	Wednesday, March 21, 2012	No class: Spring Break		
10	Wednesday, March 28, 2012	Global Civil Society and Human Rights, Human Rights and Politics in Development	Goodhart (HR) Chapters 9 and 10	Reaction Paper
	Wednesday, April 04, 2012	No class: Dr. de Vries is at ISA conference.		
11	Wednesday, April 11, 2012	Economic Globalization and Human Rights, Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation, Children's Human Rights Advocacy	Goodhart (HR) Chapters 11, 12, and 13	Reaction Paper
12	Wednesday, April 18, 2012	Human Rights and Forced Migration, Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights	Goodhart (HR) Chapters 14 and 15	Reaction Paper
13	Wednesday, April 25, 2012	Genocide and Human Rights, Torture, The Environment	Goodhart (HR) Chapters 16, 17, and 18	Reaction Paper
14	Wednesday, May 02, 2012	Humanitarian Intervention, Transitional Justice	Goodhart (HR) Chapters 19 and 20	Research Paper, Reaction Paper