

INST 4856.001 Human Trafficking/PSCI 4820.002

International Problems Seminar

Dr. Dariga Abilova

Tue/Th: 5:30PM – 6:50 PM

Room: LANG 316

Office Hours: Thursdays 1PM – 2:30PM or by appointment

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Course Description, Structure, and Objectives

Welcome to this 16-week upper-level seminar course! Upon its completion, you will have a comprehensive understanding of human trafficking, its various forms and underlying socio-economic factors. You will also critically assess the effectiveness of existing international and domestic legal frameworks, as well as the effort from non-governmental organizations and advocacy groups to effectively combat human trafficking and support survivors.

This course features discussions of abuse, violence, exploitation of humans, and other disturbing topics. Some content may be distressing or triggering to individuals who have experienced trauma. Please take care while engaging with the material, and seek support if needed.

Required Materials

1. Page, C. T., & Piatt, B. (2022). *Human Trafficking*. Second Edition. Carolina Academic Press.
2. All linked video materials (there will be many videos!)
3. Additional Weekly Readings posted on Canvas.

This course has digital components! To fully participate in this class, you will need internet access to reference content on the Canvas Learning Management System. The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, I will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Please immediately report any technical problems that are preventing you from accessing the course and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number.

How to Succeed in this Course

You should be prepared for a bigger reading load and more challenging assignments in this course. If you complete all readings and assignments on time - *you will succeed in this class*. The schedule and policies in this syllabus are all designed with the purpose of giving you the tools you need to succeed. Every deadline is in place to support your pacing. Every grading policy is there to encourage and reward you for working up to your own high standards.

If you are struggling for any reason please send me an email, text me on MS Teams or come by my office. I want to hear what you're experiencing with the class, and we will work together to fix it. Depending on your struggle, there might be immediate help from UNT's Office of Disability Accommodation and/or a medical note from a counselor or therapist that will authorize me to

accommodate your needs. If your struggle doesn't match either of these, we will work to find another solution.

I am generally strict about enforcing everything in this syllabus because that strictness usually helps my students achieve their goals and they thank me later for the tough love. If for any reason you fall off the train and feel unable to catch up, reach out to me right away and we'll get you back on board!

Academic Integrity:

We will have written assignments in the class. I am a big believer that each one of you is more than capable of coming up with your own original thoughts. And if you happen to agree with someone else's – that is fine, too, but you always need to give credits to the creators. Stealing someone else's hard work or failing to give proper credits to respective authors will never help to pass the assignments and goes against the university's policy on academic integrity.

Academic integrity emanates from a culture that embraces the core values of trust and honesty necessary for full learning to occur. As a student-centered public research university, the University of North Texas promotes the integrity of the learning process by establishing and enforcing academic standards. Academic dishonesty breaches the mutual trust necessary in an academic environment and undermines all scholarship. The Student Standards of Academic Integrity are based on educational principles and procedures that protect the rights of all participants in the educational process and validate the legitimacy of degrees awarded by the University. ([UNT Policy 18.1.16 \[EXT LINK\]](#)).

Acts academic dishonesty include cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, forgery, sabotage of other's works, self-plagiarism, team plagiarism and patch-writing plagiarism ([UNT Policy 18.1.16 \[EXT LINK\]](#)). Any attempt to engage in academic dishonesty will result in receiving zero for the assigned items and may get reported to the Dean of Students.

You can use spellchecking tools like Grammarly to proofread your original writing. However, the use of any content-producing application, such as ChatGPT, will result in an automatic zero for the assignment. In other words, you must write all your assignments yourself and you can only use AI for editing and checking for misspellings.

If you would like assistance with translating your ideas into academic writing, or just want to refresh your knowledge about proper citation mechanisms (so that you can give proper credits to authors), consider visiting the UNT's Writing Studio. Also, check [these very helpful handouts on the Writing Center \[EXT LINK\]](#), which can help you with organizing and citing your academic papers.

ADA accommodation statement:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to

implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the [Office of Disability Access \[EXT LINK\]](#) website. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Word on Communication:

For this course, I will check my email at least once per day during regular business hours, so please remember that you will not necessarily receive an instant reply from me, but I will answer your email within 48 hours. Make sure that you only use your UNT email when contacting me. When emailing me, please identify yourself by giving me your entire name, the class you are in, and your specific question. *Try to be very specific with your questions, as the more specific you are, the better I will be able to answer your question!*

Learning Environment

I value the many perspectives students bring to our campus. Please work with me to create a classroom culture of open communication, mutual respect, and belonging. All discussions should be respectful and civil. Although disagreements and debates are encouraged, personal attacks are unacceptable. Likewise, when others critique your points, don't take them personally but think about what about your and others' arguments could be presented in a more persuasive manner. Remember, you can disagree without becoming disagreeable and in addressing disagreements you will help your own and the class's learning. In return for your thoughtful engagement with the material and each other, I will work to provide a learning environment that allows you to take intellectual and emotional risks. Together, we can ensure a safe and welcoming classroom for all. If you ever feel like this is not the case, please stop by my office and let me know. We are all learning together.

Every student in this class should have the right to learn and engage within an environment of respect and courtesy from others. We will discuss our classroom's habits of engagement and I also encourage you to review UNT's student [Code of Conduct \[EXT LINK\]](#) so that we can all start with the same baseline civility understanding.

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004):

UNT prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

Attendance

Attendance Research has shown that students who attend class are more likely to be succeed in it. You should attend every class unless you have a university excused absence such as active military service, a religious holy day, or an official university function as stated in the [Student Attendance and Authorized Absences Policy \(PDF\)](#).

If you cannot attend a class due to an emergency, please let me know. Your safety and well-being are important! Also, UNT will notify through Eagle Alert of any emergencies or if there is a campus

closing that will impact a class in accordance with the [Emergency Notifications \[EXT LINK\]](#). Please try to arrive before class begins to find a seat, prepare your materials, and connect with your peers. Because this course involves collaboration, participation is essential to everyone's learning. Our in-class activities require you to be actively engaged in discussions and group work. The beginning of class is especially critical—just like the beginning of a movie or book. Being late to class is sometimes inevitable. **If you are late, know that you are welcome to join the class, but please do so without distracting others.**

Grading

A	B	C	D	F
90-99%	80-90%	70-80%	60-70%	0-60%

Grades are never rounded up. For example, if you have earned 89.99%, your grade is B+.

Late work is not accepted unless there is a valid documented reason for missing the original deadline. Also, if you have an important life event, or an emergency, or any other situation that is preventing you from submitting the work on time – please let me know as soon as possible. I reserve the right to reject last minute requests for deadline extensions without any proper documentation.

In the interest of academic fairness, all students are graded on same criteria for each assignment. Personal desires or needs to maintain a particular GPA for scholarships, athletics, or other reasons cannot be considered in grading the submitted material.

If you believe that the grade assigned should be reviewed again, I am more than happy to take another look. However, a granted grade review will require a full re-grade of the entire work and may discover that certain portions were graded too leniently.

Assignments

Extended Outline – 5%

During Week 3, you will submit an Extended Outline of the course project you intend to write a final paper on. Your outline should have clearly stated sections of your upcoming project, e.g. "Introduction", "Body", "Conclusion" and etc. The outline should be about 2 pages, have all appropriate citations and be double-spaced in 12 pt Times New Roman font. The purpose of this assignment is to give you initial feedback, to assess the direction you are planning to go, and to help you with moving to the final paper. Grading rubric for this assignment will be posted on Canvas.

Attendance and Participation – 15%

Throughout the semester, learners will be expected and required to attend every class and to be actively engaged in class as a member of the learning community for this course.

Please remember that your attendance is necessary to engage with your classmates, to critically analyze the material, to express your opinions and to help each other learn. Attending every class is going to be the easiest grade to earn. All you need to do is show up to the class during the 16-week (sans Thanksgiving week) semester and earn 0.5 points for every attendance towards your final 15 points.

Literature Review – 20%

As part of the preparation for your final paper, you are required to complete a Literature Review Assignment. By Week 8 of the semester, you should have a clearer idea of your research topic and begin gathering credible sources to support your argument. For this assignment, you must compile a list of at least 10 potential sources that you plan to use in your final paper. While it is preferable that you use mostly peer-reviewed academic sources, the nature of your topic may require you to use sources outside of academia, such as documentaries, investigations, reports. For each source, write a short paragraph (4–6 sentences) after listing the citation of the source explaining its relevance to your topic, how it supports your argument, and why you chose it. Your final document should be approximately 4 pages, double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12pt and have appropriate citations. Submit your assignments on Canvas by the end of the Week 8. This assignment is designed to help you evaluate your sources critically, keep you engaged with your topic, and ensure you are building a strong foundation for your final paper. Grading rubric for this assignment will be posted on Canvas.

In-Class Presentation – 20%

During Weeks 10-11, you will be presenting your upcoming final project by giving a short presentation (no more than 10 mins total!) and receiving feedback from me and your classmates. Presentations will be held in alphabetical order after the students' last names. Presentations are very common in the graduate school and in workplaces, so this is an additional opportunity for you to hone your public speaking skills. Grading rubric for this assignment will be posted on Canvas.

Final Paper – 40%

You will submit a final paper, where you will formulate a research question, based on your outline and the feedback you received on it, and use secondary sources to try and answer it. You should have clearly stated arguments, clearly separated by sub-sections with related sub-titles in the body of your paper and use appropriate academic sources for supporting them. The paper (generally 10 – 14 pages, should not exceed 20), must be double-spaced, written in Times New Roman 12 pt font, and have a uniform citation format throughout the entire document. There is no expectation that you are writing a scholarly publication, but rather, that you understand the structure and purpose of research papers and can find appropriate sources to support your own arguments. The purpose of this assignment is to assist you with a production of a high-quality writing piece that you can later use for publication, posting, referencing or grad school/job applications. Grading rubric for this assignment will be posted on Canvas.

Course Schedule

** PLEASE NOTE: I reserve a right to make amendments to this schedule and should they become necessary – you will be notified well ahead of any deadlines.*

Week 1	Introduction • Introduction to the class • Page, C. T., & Piatt, B. book, Introduction, pp. 3 – 28.
Week 2	Geography and Demography of Trafficking • Page, C. T., & Piatt, B. book, Chapter 3 • Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2024 [EXT LINK]

Week 3	What do the current laws say? • Page, C. T., & Piatt, B. book, Chapter 2 • Bryant, K., & Landman, T. (2020). Combatting Human Trafficking since Palermo: What Do We Know about What Works? <i>Journal of Human Trafficking</i>, 6(2), 119–140. • Pope Francis And Other Religious Leaders Sign Declaration Against Modern Slavery [EXT LINK] Extended Outline DUE on Sunday September 6th via Canvas
Week 4	History of Slavery and Trafficking • UNESCO. (2024). The Deep Legacy of Slavery. Digital Issue. • Glum, U. L. (2021). The tattoos of Armenian genocide survivors: Inscribing the female body as a practice of regulation. <i>Journal for Religion, Film and Media</i>, 7(1), 123-143.
Week 5	Trafficking and Gender • Page, C. T., & Piatt, B. book, Chapters 5 – 6 • Werner, C. (2009). Bride abduction in post-soviet central asia: Marking a shift towards patriarchy through local discourses of shame and tradition. <i>The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute</i>, 15(2), 314-331. • Like, Follow, Trafficked: Insta’s Fake Guru - BBC World Service Documentaries [EXT LINK]
Week 6	Organ Trade and Transplant Tourism • Gawronska, S. (2019). Organ trafficking and human trafficking for the purpose of organ removal, two international legal frameworks against illicit organ removal. <i>New Journal of European Criminal Law</i>, 10(3), 268-286. • Ambagtsheer, F., & Van Balen, L. (2020). ‘I’m not Sherlock Holmes’: Suspicion, secrecy and silence of transplant professionals in the human organ trade. <i>European Journal of Criminology</i>, 17(6), 764-783. • Iran pays kidney donors. Should the U.S. follow? PBS. [EXT LINK]. • Black Market Organs. Trafficked with Mariana van Zeller. [EXT LINK]
Week 7	Immigration and Smuggling • Page, C. T., & Piatt, B. book, Chapter 4 • Koegler, E., Howland, W., Gibbons, P., Teti, M., & Stoklosa, H. (2022). “When her visa expired, the family refused to renew it,” intersections of human trafficking and domestic violence: Qualitative document analysis of case examples from a major midwest city. <i>Journal of Interpersonal Violence</i>, 37(7-8), 4133-4159.

Week 8	Labor Trafficking • Food Chains [EXT LINK] • How Qatar built stadiums with forced labor [EXT LINK] • Parreñas, R. S., & Silvey, R. (2021). The governance of the Kafala system and the punitive control of migrant domestic workers. <i>Population Space & Place</i>, 27(5), 1–7. Literature Review DUE on Sunday October 11th via Canvas
Week 9	Trafficking in Sports, Entertainment and Fashion • Yilmaz, S., Esson, J., Darby, P., Drywood, E., & Mason, C. (2020). Children's rights and the regulations on the transfer of young players in football. <i>International Review for the Sociology of Sport</i>, 55(1), 115-124. • Felix, D. (2025) The Tragedy of the Diddy Trial. The New Yorker. [EXT LINK] • Eastern District of New York Press Release [EXT LINK] • TBA
Weeks 10 - 11	In-Class Presentations, schedule is posted on Canvas
Weeks 12	The Ethics of International Adoptions • Gibbons, J. L. (2016). Human Trafficking and Intercountry Adoption. <i>Women & Therapy</i>, 40(1-2), 170–189. • Rotabi, K. S., & Bromfield, N. F. (2012). The Decline in Intercountry Adoptions and New Practices of Global Surrogacy: Global Exploitation and Human Rights Concerns. <i>Affilia</i>, 27(2), 129-141. • Adoption Inc: The Baby Business. Fault Lines [EXT LINK]
Week 13	Re-trafficking and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder • Chen, V. H., Beauchemin, E. L., Cuan, I. T., Sadana, A., Olulola-Charles, L., Leschi, J. E., & Ades, V. (2023). Sex trafficking in new york city and vulnerabilities to re-trafficking. <i>Journal of Interpersonal Violence</i>, 38(21-22), 11501-11519. • TBA
Week 14	Going Forward: Proposed Reforms • Page, C. T., & Piatt, B. book, Chapter 7
Week 15	Thanksgiving Break, no classes
Week 16	Final Papers DUE on Sunday December 6th via Canvas

Additional UNT Policies

Retention of Student Records:

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work

completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See [UNT Records Management and Retention Policy \[EXT LINK\]](#) for additional information.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect:

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail Eagle Connect (<https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>).

Student Evaluation Administration Dates:

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13-15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey, they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the [SPOT website \[EXT LINK\]](#) or email spot@unt.edu.

Survivor Advocacy:

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-5652648.

Use of Student Work:

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student's written permission.

Transmission and Recording of Student Images in Electronically Delivered Courses:

No permission is needed from a student for his or her image or voice to be transmitted live via videoconference or streaming media, but all students should be informed when courses are to be conducted using either method of delivery. No notification is needed if only audio and slide capture is used or if the video only records the instructor's image.

Student Support Services:

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- [Student Health and Wellness Center \[EXT LINK\]](#)
- [Counseling and Testing Services \[EXT LINK\]](#)
- [UNT Care Team \[EXT LINK\]](#)
- [UNT Psychiatric Services \[EXT LINK\]](#)
- [Individual Counseling \[EXT LINK\]](#)

Additional Student Support Services:

- [Registrar \[EXT LINK\]](#)
- [Financial Aid \[EXT LINK\]](#)
- [Student Legal Services \[EXT LINK\]](#)
- [Career Center \[EXT LINK\]](#)
- [UNT Food Pantry \[EXT LINK\]](#)
- [Academic Resource Center \[EXT LINK\]](#)
- [Academic Success Center \[EXT LINK\]](#)
- [UNT Libraries \[EXT LINK\]](#)
- [Writing Lab \[EXT LINK\]](#)