International Human Rights
PSCI 4520 | Spring 2020
Department of Political Science, University of North Texas
Dr. Melissa McKay

Instructor information: Melissa McKay, Ph.D.
Office: Wooten Hall Room 154
Office Hours: T/Th 2:00-3:30pm, and by appointment
Political Science Main Office: Wooten 125
Email: melissa.mckay@unt.edu
(I will only email you on your university account)

Class Information:
Meeting times: 12:30-1:50pm Tuesday & Thursday
Meeting place: Business Leadership Building (BLB) 035
Online classroom: unt.instructure.com

Course Description:
This course introduces the universality of human rights and highlights the
social, legal, and historical aspects of the inherent rights of all. Focusing on
theoretic and conceptual foundations, we discuss human rights violations/
vilators as well as prevention and accountability. Upon completion of this
course, students will be able to identify and explain international human
rights, how they are enforced domestically and internationally, how violators
are held accountable, and be able to apply these core concepts to current and
past events.

Class Overview:
This class includes weekly lectures and class discussions and activities focused
on international human rights, which includes atrocities and horrible personal
integrity violations. Students should plan to attend class, participate in all
classroom discussions, and ensure familiarity with auxiliary resources as
introduced in-class or via Canvas. Please recognize that in-class lectures are
not opportunities for me to regurgitate assigned readings, and not all reading
topics will be given equal time in class discussions. Come to class prepared to
take notes and participate.

Class Communications:
I have listed my office hours above. If you have any questions about the course,
or anything else you want to talk about, please feel free to stop by and chat
during those hours. If those aren’t convenient times, send me an email and I’ll
do my best to accommodate – even if that means an online meeting via Zoom.
You can send me a note via Canvas, or email me directly at the address
provided above. Please allow me around 24 hours to get back to you, but if it’s
been longer and you haven’t heard back, don’t be shy about sending me a
reminder. I have a handful of other classes, so my off-hours vary throughout
the week. If you send a note on Friday-Sunday, please expect that I most likely
will not write you back until Monday afternoon (I have classes Monday).


Consistent and reliable access to the internet, required Canvas add-on apps
Access to a popular podcast provider (Apple iTunes, Google Play, etc...)

Grading: Final grades are numerically based on the number of points achieved on the following weighted assignment types:

**Exams: 15% each** (45% of total grade)
Three exams will be online via Canvas, closed book/resources, consisting of a combination of questions, essays, an/or problems.

**Discussion Posts – 20% of total grade**
Nearly each week (check assignment calendar) we will have a required online discussion about the content we've covered in class and readings that week. Discussion requirements are posted on Canvas.

**Research Article Folders – 15% of total grade**
Students will be assigned several journal articles to read and review throughout the course of the semester. Each student will be required to read and complete review of each article and reading assigned. A template and requirements for this assignment are posted on Canvas.

**Dr. McKay’s Totally Mandatory Book Club – 20% of total grade**
Reading actual books seems to be a lost or at least dying concept, and success in college wholeheartedly depends on your ability to read, comprehend, and interpret your assigned readings. I like to try to incorporate reading relevant and topical books where I can. Throughout the semester we will be reading “*A Problem from Hell – American and the Age of Genocide*” together. In true book club fashion, we will all read the same chapters at a specified time and answer questions based on those chapters and discuss the book during the assigned class times.

*Letter grades are assigned based on standard grade scales:*

- A – 90-100%
- B – 80-89%
- C – 70-79%
- D – 60-69%
- F – 59 - under

Grading Notes:

*Dr. McKay reserves the right to change the terms and planned materials contained in this document at her discretion*
Final grades will be based on the weighted outcomes of the assignments above. I use standard mathematical rounding if necessary.

Please do not request extra credit. If there is an activity that I feel would be relevant I will offer it to the entire class. I cannot and definitely will not provide extra credit opportunities for individual students.

If you feel like your grades are slipping or you are falling behind, please reach out to me immediately. Too many students wait until their semester progress is a lost cause, but if we catch it early enough we can most likely work together on a plan of action.

Technical Support
As much as I like to think I'm technically proficient, I am pretty much useless as a technical support resource so if you experience any kind of technical problem (especially during exams), please contact:

Student Helpdesk:
UIT Helpdesk
Sage Hall 130
940-565-2324
helpdesk@unt.edu

Please note: If you experience a loss of internet connection, WIFI signal, or your browser freezes up on you during an assignment or exam, you must contact the UNT resources first, then send me an email with the problem you experienced and how you’re addressing it. If you fail to complete an assignment or exam because of technical issues, there is nothing we can do if you do not tell us right away.

Academic Integrity: https://vpaa.unt.edu/fs/resources/academic/integrity

ADA Policy
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 Accommodation (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 see the Office of Disability
Accommodation website at [https://disability.unt.edu](https://disability.unt.edu) You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

**Federal Regulation**
# Class Schedule Spring 2020*

*All assignments are due in the appropriate Canvas module by Sunday at 11:59pm unless otherwise noted.

*Subject to change at instructor’s discretion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assigned Reading</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Jan 14 &amp; 16</td>
<td>Historical Background of Human Rights</td>
<td>D&amp;W Chapter 1 Power</td>
<td>Discussion Post #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Jan 28 &amp; 30</td>
<td>Theoretical Approaches and Universality of Human Rights</td>
<td>D&amp;W Chapter 2,3, 4</td>
<td>Discussion Post #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Jan 28 &amp; 30</td>
<td>International Humanitarian Law vs. International Human Rights Law</td>
<td>Canvas readings Power</td>
<td>Discussion Post #3 Book Club #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Feb 4 &amp; 6</td>
<td>Norms and Human rights mechanisms Exam 1</td>
<td>D&amp;W Chapter 5 Canvas readings Power Exam 1 Thursday Feb 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Feb 11 &amp; 13</td>
<td>Integration and Enforcement of IHR Law Monitoring and Reporting Violations</td>
<td>Canvas Readings Power</td>
<td>Discussion Post #3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Feb 18 &amp; 20</td>
<td>Regional Human Rights Regimes Book Club #2</td>
<td>D&amp;W Chapter 6</td>
<td>Discussion Post #4 Book Club #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Feb 25 &amp; 27</td>
<td>Human Rights Violations: State and Non-state violators</td>
<td>Canvas Readings</td>
<td>Discussion Post #5</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 March 3 &amp; 5</td>
<td>Human Rights Violations: Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity, and Torture</td>
<td>D&amp;W Chapter 10 (1-6) Canvas readings Power</td>
<td>Articles folders due</td>
</tr>
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**Spring Break**

<p>| 9 Mar 17 &amp; 19 | Human Rights Violations: Ethnic Cleansing, Violations against groups | Canvas Readings        | Discussion Post #6              |</p>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 23 &amp; 26</td>
<td>Catch up &amp; Review</td>
<td>Canvas Readings</td>
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</tbody>
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| Mar 31 & Apr 2 | Exam 2  
Book Club Meeting #3                                         | Power Chapters                                             |
| April 7 & 9 | International & Domestic Protections                                 | D&W Chapter 10 (7-10) Canvas Readings                      |
| April 14 & 16 | Holding Violators Accountable                                       | Canvas Readings                                             |
| April 20 & 23 | Third-parties, transnational NGO's and the media                   | D&W Chapter 9 Canvas Readings                              |
| April 28 & 30 | Terrorism & Globalization                                            | D&W Chapters 11 & 12 Articles folders due                  |

**Final Exam Thursday May 7**

Make sure you are keeping up with the Canvas syllabus and modules, as that information is updated more frequently and contains all auxiliary reading and assignments.