

Introduction to Human Rights and Justice Section 80

JS 25

Spring 2023 3 Unit(s) 01/25/2023 to 05/15/2023 Modified 01/18/2023

Contact Information

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Office: <https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1559278>

Office Hours

Wednesdays

Wednesday, 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM, Online

If you would like to meet for Office Hours, please email 1-2 days before to schedule.

Please use this Zoom link for Office Hours:

<https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/84557187546?pwd=QWgvNzdBaVBVMHZjdW9iNVRZbFNzZz09>

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Course Description and Requisites

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. GE Area: D (formerly GE Area D3)

Letter Graded

* Classroom Protocols

CONDUCT

Students are expected to behave in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. The university's Academic Integrity Policy requires students to be honest in all academic coursework. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. A few students get into trouble because they are unaware of what constitutes academic misconduct. Academic misconduct includes cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, interference (e.g., stealing another student's work), violating course rules, and facilitating academic dishonesty. Academic misconduct could result in failure for an assignment (typically a grade of zero) or for the course or even in expulsion from the university.

The academic integrity policy can be found at: <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct> (<http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct>). My punishments will be in accordance with university policies—I will not tolerate academic misconduct.

Students are also expected to respect the right of their fellow students to learn. In all course

activities, students must maintain a respectful demeanor toward fellow students regardless of personal assessments of them. Failure to act according to the standards set forth here will have consequences. For example, students may be dismissed from the course, and a complaint made to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development.

Program Information

Welcome to this General Education course.

SJSU's General Education Program establishes a strong foundation of versatile skills, fosters curiosity about the world, promotes ethical judgment, and prepares students to engage and contribute responsibly and cooperatively in a multicultural, information-rich society. General education classes integrate areas of study and encourage progressively more complex and creative analysis, expression, and problem solving.

The General Education Program has three goals:

Goal 1: To develop students' core competencies for academic, personal, creative, and professional pursuits.

Goal 2: To enact the university's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and justice by ensuring that students have the knowledge and skills to serve and contribute to the well-being of local and global communities and the environment.

Goal 3: To offer students integrated, multidisciplinary, and innovative study in which they pose challenging questions, address complex issues, and develop cooperative and creative responses.

More information about the General Education Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) can be found on the [GE website](https://sjsu.edu/general-education/ge-requirements/overview/learning-outcomes.php) (<https://sjsu.edu/general-education/ge-requirements/overview/learning-outcomes.php>).

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

GE Area D: Social Sciences

Area D courses increase students' understanding of human behavior and social interaction in the context of value systems, economic structures, political institutions, social groups, and natural environments. Students develop an understanding of problems and issues from different disciplinary perspectives and examine issues in their contemporary as well as historical settings and in a variety of cultural contexts.

The CSU requires students to complete General Education courses in the Social Sciences in at least two different disciplines. Students may meet this requirement by either 1) taking two lower-division Area D courses in different disciplines, or 2) taking two lower-division Area D courses in the same discipline and an Area S upper-division GE course in a different discipline.

GE Area D Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of an Area D course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the ways in which social institutions, culture, and environment shape and are shaped by the behavior of individuals, both past and present;
2. Compare and contrast the dynamics of two or more social groups or social systems in a variety of historical and/or cultural contexts;
3. Place contemporary social developments in cultural, environmental, geographical, and/or historical contexts;
4. Draw on social/behavioral science information from various perspectives to formulate applications appropriate to historical and/or contemporary social issues.

Writing Practice: Students will write a minimum of 1500 words in a language and style appropriate to the discipline.

Course Materials

Required Textbook:

M. Goodhart (2022). *Human Rights: Theory and Practice* (4th edition). Oxford University Press. ISBN-13: 978-0190085469

All other materials we be provided on Canvas

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

☰ Course Requirements and Assignments

Course Format

This course is asynchronous. The student must have regular internet access to access the course materials and submit the course assignments. This includes a computer with video and audio playback features (e.g., YouTube, Quicktime).

✓ Grading Information

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf> (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>). Learning in this online section of JS 25 is accomplished primarily through reading assigned material and PowerPoint presentations and through course assignments. Everything except the textbook is acquired and/or turned in via the course website on Canvas.

Canvas Website: This course is located on Canvas—enrolled students automatically have access through their SJSUOne account. All course material except the book will be acquired and/or turned in via that website. Class participation (Discussion Boards, exams, and all work and feedback on the projects and course papers will be located on that medium.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- 1) Discussion and Participation (30% of final grade)
- 2) Textbook Reading Responses (10% of final grade)
- 3) Midterm Paper (15% of final grade)
- 4) Final Project (30% of final grade)
- 5) Final Exam (15% of final grade)

1) Discussions and Participation (30% of final grade)

Active participation is key to the success of our course and your learning experience. Students are required to keep up with the assigned readings and are expected to contribute to online discussions by substantively responding to weekly module discussion prompts, as well as substantively responding to at least one classmate's response. The participation grade will be based on contributions to class discussion, posts, and responses to our Canvas discussion board.

2) Textbook Reading Responses (10% of final grade)

Reading responses will be based on end-of-chapter textbook prompts.

3) Midterm Paper (15% of final grade)

Students will submit a 2-3 page single-spaced, 12-point font paper on a human rights movement of their choice. Your paper should contain the historical background and goal of the movement, the objectives and tactics of the movements, and a critic of the movement.

4) Final Project (30% of final grade)

Individually or in groups of up to 3, you will present on a current human rights issue (domestic or international) by completing a series of tasks, including (1) summarizing the issue (2) discussing past approaches/attempts to resolve the issue, (3) presenting ideas of policy changes to resolve the issues presented, (4) evaluate your policy goals and obstacles, and (5) generating discussion questions. If you choose to work as a group, each member of the group must participate equally in the presentation, and document their individual contributions. Individually or as a group, you will create a 5-10 minute presentation using a medium of your choice and upload it to Canvas. Your discussion of the material should be thoughtful and analytical, and invite participation by all students. For grading, you will receive both individual and group grades. Students will have to respond substantively to at least on presentation.

5) Final Exam (15% of final grade)

The final exam will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions and will cover all materials assigned.

The grading scale is:

A+ 100 - 97 A 96 - 93 A- 92 - 90

B+ 89 - 87 B 86 - 83 B- 82 - 80

C+ 79 - 77 C 76 - 73

Not acceptable in JS: C- 72 - 70

D+ 69 - 67 D 66 - 63 D- 62 - 60

F 59 and below

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page \(https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php\)](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

Week 1: The Philosophical Foundations of Human Rights - 1/25

- Reading Response
 - Goodhart Chapter 1: The Philosophical Foundations of Human Rights
- Canvas Material
 - Discussion Board Response

Week 2: Human Rights in International Law - 2/1

- Reading Response
 - Goodhart Chapter 2: Human Rights in International Law
- Canvas Material
 - Discussion Board Response

Week 3: The Politics of Human Rights - 2/8

- Reading Response
 - Goodhart Chapter 3: The Politics of Human Rights
- Canvas Material
 - Discussion Board Response

Week 4: Feminist Approaches to Human Rights - 2/15

- Reading Response
 - Goodhart Chapter 4: Feminist Approaches to Human Rights
- Canvas Material
 - Discussion Board Response

Week 5: Genocide and Human Rights - 2/22

- Reading Response
 - Goodhart Chapter 8: Genocide and Human Rights
- Canvas Material
 - Discussion Board Response

Week 6: Transitional Justice - 3/1

- Reading Response
 - Goodhart Chapter 10: Transitional Justice
- Canvas Material
 - Discussion Board Response

Week 7: Political Democracy and State Repression - 3/8

- Reading Response
 - Goodhart Chapter 12: Political Democracy and State Repression
- Canvas Material
 - Discussion Board Response

Week 8: Forced Migration and Refugees - 3/15

- Reading Response
 - Goodhart Chapter 13: Forced Migration and Refugees
- Canvas Material
 - Discussion Board Response
- Final Project Proposal

Week 9: Human Rights and the Environment - 3/22

- Reading Response
 - Goodhart Chapter 14: Human Rights and the Environment
- Canvas Material
 - Discussion Board Response
- Midterm Paper

Week 10: No Assignments This Week (SPRING RECESS) - 3/29

Week 11: Indigenous Rights and Language Sovereignty - 4/5

- Reading Response
 - Goodhart Chapter 15: Indigenous Rights and Language Sovereignty
- Canvas Material
 - Discussion Board Response

Week 12: Social Movements and Human Rights - 4/12

- Reading Response
 - Goodhart Chapter 16: Social Movements and Human Rights
- Canvas Material
 - Discussion Board Response

Week 13: Theory in Practice: Making Human Rights Claims in a Human Rights Way - 4/19

- Reading Response
 - Goodhart Chapter 17: Theory in Practice: Making Human Rights Claims in a Human Rights Way
- Canvas Material
 - Discussion Board Response

Week 14: Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Human Rights - 4/26

- Reading Response
 - Goodhart Chapter 18: Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Human Rights
- Canvas Material
 - Discussion Board Response

Week 15: Human Rights and the UN Sustainable Development Goals - 5/3

- Reading Response
 - Goodhart Chapter 21: Human Rights and the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Canvas Board Response

Week 16: Final Project and Final Exam - 5/10

- Final Project
- Final Exam