

POLITICAL SCIENCE 380
HUMAN RIGHTS IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE
SPRING 2010

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Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 11-12 and by appointment

This class will introduce students to some of the major debates around the theory, history, politics, and practice of human rights.

Reading:

Two books are required for the course, both available at KB Books.

- Rachel Meeropol, editor, *America's Disappeared: Secret Imprisonment, Detainees, and the "War on Terror"* (New York: Seven Stories Press, 2005).
- Shannon Speed, *Rights in Rebellion: Indigenous Struggle and Human Rights in Chiapas* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2008).

In addition to these books, there is a **required** course reader, available at Cal Copy. All readings, except the required books, are in the reader. There is no Blackboard site for this class.

Class Attendance and Participation:

Formal or informal discussion will be a feature of every class session, and every student is expected to participate in these discussions. This requires attending class and having done the reading. Class attendance is not mandatory, but pop quizzes and other assignments on the reading will be given throughout the semester, and will account for 30% of your semester grade. I will drop the lowest grade, so you can miss one quiz or other assignment without penalty. In addition, consistent and excellent in-class participation can lead to an extra point or two on the semester grade.

Class Rules:

- *No computers.* I do not allow computers to be used in class.
- *No voice recorders.* Electronically recording lectures is not allowed.
- *No cell phones.* Turn your cell phone off or put it on silent, and do not check it or use it during the class period.
- *No eating in class.* Beverages in spill-proof cups or bottles are fine.

Proper classroom behavior. The classroom is a place for open discussion and debate, but to facilitate this, we all need to abide by certain rules and standards. Most importantly, students are expected to be respectful of other students and of other opinions.

Email. To get in touch with me via email, a special gmail account has been set up: POLS380@gmail.com. Please use this address for all communications. Treat emails as short letters, not as long text messages. Use a proper salutation, such as Dear Professor/Dr./Mr. Branch, and use full sentences and correct grammar and spelling.

Disabilities:

Students with disabilities who need special accommodations in class or on tests must make arrangements through Student Disability Services, located at Calpulli Center, Suite 3101, phone number 594-6473, webpage <http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/sds/>.

Grading and Assignments:

Your semester grade will be determined as follows:

- Midterm Exam: 35%
- Final Paper: 35%
- Quizzes & Other Assignments: 30%

Plagiarism and Cheating:

Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will result in failure and will be reported to the University. For the SDSU Academic Senate Policy on plagiarism and cheating, see http://its.sdsu.edu/resources/turnitin/pdf/Plagiarism_AcadSen.pdf. If you have further questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me or the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities, located at Student Services West, Room 1604, webpage <http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/>.

Reading Schedule

January 21: Introduction

January 26: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948). **R 1-5**
- Jack Donnelly, "Human Rights as an Issue in World Politics," in *International Human Rights, 3rd Edition* (2007). **R 2-6**

January 28: The Foundations of Human Rights

- Jack Donnelly, "Theories of Human Rights" and "The Relative Universality of Human Rights," in *International Human Rights*. **R 7-18**
- Richard Falk, "Pursuing Global Justice," in *Human Rights Horizons* (2000). **R 20-31**

February 2: The Foundations of Human Rights

- Michael Ignatieff, "Human Rights as Politics," in *Human Rights as Politics and Idolatry* (2001). **R 34-57**

February 4: The Politics of Human Rights: Transnational Advocacy

- Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, "Human Rights Advocacy Networks in Latin America," in *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics* (1998). **R 60-81**

February 9: The Politics of Human Rights: The Powerlessness of Rights?

- Hannah Arendt, "The Decline of the Nation-State and the End of the Rights of Man," in *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (1968). **R 98-116**

February 11: The Politics of Human Rights: Human Rights and Intervention

- David Chandler, "The Road to Military Humanitarianism: How the Human Rights NGOs Shaped a New Humanitarian Agenda," *Human Rights Quarterly* (2001). **R 117-128**
- Jarat Chopra and Thomas Weiss, "Sovereignty is no Longer Sacrosanct: Codifying Humanitarian Intervention," *Ethics & International Affairs* (1992). **R 129-140**

February 16: The Politics of Human Rights: Human Rights and Democracy

- Claude Lefort, "Politics and Human Rights," in *The Political Forms of Modern Society* (1986). **R 142-159**

February 18: The Politics of Human Rights: Human Rights and US Hegemony

- Noam Chomsky, "The United States and the Challenge of Relativity," in *Rogue States: The Rule of Force in World Affairs* (2000). **R 162-177**

February 23: Human Rights in Africa: Victims and Saviors

- Makau Mutua, "Savages, Victims, and Saviors: The Metaphor of Human Rights," *Harvard International Law Journal* (2001). **R 179-201**
- Mahmood Mamdani, "The New Humanitarian Order," *The Nation*, September 29, 2008. **R 203-209**

February 25: Human Rights in Africa: Popular Mobilization

- Issa Shivji, "The Human Rights Community," and "Revolutionising Human Rights Framework," in *The Concept of Human Rights in Africa* (1989). **R 212-225**
- Malcolm X, "The Ballot or the Bullet," in *Malcolm X Speaks* (1965). **R 84-95**

March 2: Human Rights in Africa: International Criminal Prosecutions

- Adam Branch, "Uganda's Civil War and the Politics of ICC Intervention," *Ethics & International Affairs* (2007). **R 309-318**
- Mary Kimani, "Pursuit of Justice or Western Plot? International Indictments Stir Angry Debate in Africa," *Africa Renewal* (2009). **R 319-323**

March 4: Women's Human Rights: Are Women Human?

- Catherine MacKinnon, "Are Women Human," and "Women's September 11," in *Are Women Human? And Other International Dialogues* (2006). **R 228-240**

March 9: Women's Human Rights: The Question of Culture

- Sally Engle Merry, "Introduction: Culture and Transnationalism," in *Human Rights and Gender Violence* (2005). **R 242-256**
- Human Rights Focus (Uganda), "Acholi Society and Return: Men, Women, and Land," in *Fostering the Transition in Acholiland: From War to Peace, from Camps to Home* (2007). **R 257-268**

March 11: Sexual Rights in Uganda

- Human Rights Watch, "Uganda: 'Anti-Homosexuality' Bill Threatens Liberties and Human Rights Defenders," October 15, 2009. **R 269-270**
- Mark Dybul, "Uganda's Anti-Gay Law: Opposition Grounded in Bipartisan Confluence of Human Rights and Public Health," *Huffington Post*, December 19, 2009. **R 271-272**
- Jeffrey Gettleman, "Americans' Role Seen in Uganda Anti-Gay Push," and "Gay in Uganda, and Feeling Hunted," *New York Times*, January 4, 2010. **R 273-277**
- "The Secret Political Reach of 'The Family,'" Interview with Jeff Sharlet on Fresh Air, National Public Radio, November 24, 2009. **R 278-287**
- Kapya Kaoma, "The U.S. Christian Right and the Attack on Gays in Africa," *The Public Eye Magazine* (Winter 2009/Spring 2010). **R 288-294**
- Sylvia Tamale, "Law, Sexuality, and Politics in Uganda," in *Human Rights NGOs in East Africa: Political and Normative Tensions*, Makua Mutua, ed. (2009). **R 295-307**

March 16: Corporations and Human Rights: Natural Resources in Africa

- Christian Aid, *The Scorched Earth: Oil and War in Sudan* (2001). **R 465-479**
- John Lasker, "Inside Africa's Playstation War," *Toward Freedom* (2008). **R 481-483**
- Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth-Nigeria, "Oil for Nothing: Multinational Corporations, Environmental Destruction, Death and Impunity in the Niger Delta" (1999). **R 485-510**

March 18: Corporations and Human Rights: Killer Coke in Colombia

- Michael Blanding, "The Case Against Coke," *The Nation*, May 1, 2006. **R 325-329**
- Lesley Gill, "The Limits of Solidarity: Labor and Transnational Organizing against Coca-Cola," *American Ethnologist* (2009). **R 331-344**

March 23: ***Midterm***

March 25: Furlough Day—No Class

March 30, April 1: Spring Break (*Read Meeropol Book*)

April 6: The War on Terror, Detention, and Torture

- Rachel Meeropol, ed. *America's Disappeared: Secret Imprisonment, Detainees, and the "War on Terror"* (2005), pp. 1-129.

April 8: The War on Terror, Detention, and Torture

- Rachel Meeropol, ed. *America's Disappeared*, pp. 130-227.

April 13: The War on Terror and the US-Mexico Border

- Deepa Fernandes, "The Border Crackdown," in *Targeted: National Security and the Business of Immigration* (2007). **R 380-404**

April 15: Militarizing the US-Mexico Border

- *NACLA Report on the Americas*, "Terror Incognita: Immigrants and the Homeland Security State," (November/December 2008). **R 345-360**
- American Civil Liberties Union of San Diego and Imperial Counties, "Humanitarian Crisis: Migrant Deaths at the US-Mexico Border" (2009). **R 361-378**

April 20: Furlough Day—No Class

April 22: US Prisons

- Manning Marable, "Black Radicalism and an Economy of Incarceration," Angela Davis, "From the Convict Lease System to the Super-Max Prison," and Marc Mauer, "Young Black Americans and the Criminal Justice System," in *States of Confinement: Policing, Detention, and Prisons*, Joy James, ed. (2000). **R 406-421**

April 27: Police Tactics

- Heidi Boghosian and the National Lawyers Guild, "Punishing Protest: Government Tactics that Suppress Free Speech" (2007). **R 423-458**

April 29: Human Rights and Autonomy

- Shannon Speed, *Rights in Rebellion* (2008), Chapters 1 & 5.
- *****Outline for Final Paper Due*****

May 4: Human Rights and Autonomy

- Shannon Speed, *Rights in Rebellion* (2008), Chapters 6, 7, 8.

May 6: Human Rights and Autonomy

- Subcomandante Marcos, "Chiapas, The Thirteenth Stele" (2003). **R 459-463**

May 11: The War on Drugs...and Us

- Eric Wolff, "Sudden Fall: Details of the Big SDSU Drug Bust Emerge," *San Diego City Beat*, May 27, 2008. **R 531-538**

*****Final Paper Due Tuesday, May 18*****