**Antalya Bilim University**

**Department of Political Science and International Relations, POLS 319/373**

**Politics of Human Rights**

**Fall 2023**

Lecturer: Gözde Turan

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Class hours: Monday 10.00-12.50 (A2-93)

Office: A2-66

Office hours: Thursday 10.00-12.00

**Course description**

Human Rights, as it cannot be thought as distinct and separate from politics, is both a source and outcome of the material world. The aim of this course is to provide students with a solid introduction to Human Rights both as a legal field and as a foundation of modern liberal democratic regimes while stimulating them to think critically rather than acknowledging Human Rights as a taken for granted concept. Reflections on Human Rights concept will provide the background information of the mainstream as well as critical perspectives, and prepare the students for further discussions on the paradoxes, particularities and subjectivities of Human Rights. Through these discussions, the students will proceed step by step with in-depth debates on the relationality of Human Rights with issues such as democracy, feminism, self-determination, humanitarian intervention, indigenous and minority rights.

**Course objectives**

The major objective of this course is to provide the students a substantive knowledge on the foundations, nature and effects of human rights, and support critical thinking on this thematic concept of the current world. Beyond contributing to the general development of students’ intellectual maturity and abilities, the more specific objectives of the course include developing students’

* knowledge of theoretical perspectives of Human Rights;
* knowledge of substantive issues studied by Human Rights scholars;
* ability to make sense of and reflect independently, theoretically and critically on Human Rights;
* ability to express and defend views and ideas in class discussions and written assignments.

**Course organization**

* Lectures will be delivered each week when there is no in-class essay assignment or discussion hour.
* In-class essay assignments
* Participation in discussions

**Plagiarism and Academic Standards**

Students should be familiar with what plagiarism is, and avoid it like the plague. Plagiarism—defined by the University as the act of presenting the work of others as one’s own work, without acknowledgement—is unacceptable under any circumstances. It is essential that the source for your material is always clear to the reader. This does not apply only to direct quotes from a book or article; it applies to any point taken directly from something that you have read. Paraphrasing the work of others and presenting it without attribution as your own is unacceptable—a citation must be given. You should be sure that (i) direct quotes are always enclosed in quotation marks so that it is clear that you are not claiming to have written the phrases yourself; (ii) you always give the source of ideas and facts, including the precise page reference; and (iii) you cite your sources, not your source’s sources. If you engage in cheating or plagiarism, you will receive an F (0.0) grade for the course and you will be reported to the Disciplinary Committee for academic dishonesty.

**Course grading**

Mid-term examination: 30% of final grade.

Final examination: 35% of final grade.

Other assignments and participations: 35% of final grade.

- in-class essays (5 x 5%)

- participation in group discussions (10%)

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| POLS 319- Politics of Human Rights |
| Week 1: Introduction to Politics of Human Rights |
| Going over the Syllabus, Course Rules, Assignments  • Introduction to Human Rights. How do we conceptualize Human Rights? What is the role of Human Rights in contemporary world order? |
| Week 2: The Historical Development of Human Rights |
| * Clapham, Andrew. *Human rights: a very short introduction*. Oxford: OUP, 2015: 23-56. |
| Week 3: The Concept of Human Rights |
| * Jack Donnelly, *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2013: 7-39. |
| Week 4: Economic Rights and Group Rights |
| * Jack Donnelly, *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2013: 40-74. |
| Week 5: Torture |
| * Nowak, Manfred. “What’s in a name? The prohibitions on torture and ill treatment today,” in Gearty, Conor and Costas Douzinas, eds. *The Cambridge companion to human rights law*. Cambridge University Press, 2012: 307-328. |
| Week 6: Media, Democracy, Human Rights |
| * Blanton, Thomas. "The World's Right to Know." *Foreign Policy* (2002): 50-58. * Joseph, S. (2012). Social Media, Political Change, and Human Rights. *BC Int'l & Comp. L. Rev.*, *35*, 145. * Montague, Phillip. "Government, the Press, and the People's Right to Know." *Journal of Social Philosophy* 28.2 (1997): 68-78. |
| Week 7: Review |
| Week 8: MID-TERM WEEK |
| IN-CLASS MID-TERM EXAMINATION |
| Week 9: Slavery and Trafficking |
| * Bales, Kevin. "Expendable people: Slavery in the age of globalization." *Journal of International Affairs* (2000): 461-484. * Davidson, Julia O'Connell. "New slavery, old binaries: human trafficking and the borders of ‘freedom’." *Global networks* 10.2 (2010): 244-261. |
| Week 10: Women’s Rights |
| * Bunch, Charlotte. "Women's rights as human rights: Toward a re-vision of human rights." *Hum. Rts. Q.* 12 (1990): 486-498. * Carpenter R. C. “‘Women and Children First’: Gender, Norms and Humanitarian Evacuation in the Balkans 1991-1995” International Organization 57 (4) (2003): 661-694 |
| Week 11: Children’s Rights |
| * Fortin, Jane. *Children's rights and the developing law*. Cambridge University Press, 2003: 3-32. * Felton, John. "Child soldiers." *CQ Global Researcher* 2 (2008): 183-211. |
| Week 12: The Death Penalty |
| * Clapham, Andrew. *Human rights: a very short introduction*. Oxford: OUP, 2015: 152-163. |
| Week 13: Religion and Human Rights |
| * Raday, F. (2003). Culture, religion, and gender. *International Journal of Constitutional Law*, *1*(4), 663-715. * Boyle, K. (2004). Human rights, religion and democracy: The Refah Party case. *Essex Human Rights Review*, *1*(1), 1-16. |
| Week 14: OVERVIEW |
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