

**Advanced Topics in International Relations:  
Human Rights  
PLS 451**

**Course Instructor:**

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30 to 4:30; Thursday 2:30 to 4:30

Office: 8-507b

Sign up here for priority: <https://calendly.com/jessica-neafie/15min>

You may sign up for multiple sessions if you need to talk for a while.

**You may come even if you don't sign up and you may also meet by zoom**

**Course Description**

Human rights have become an increasingly essential issue in global politics. This course examines the gradual development of human rights as a regime and its influence on international politics. The course looks at how and why human rights developed and how human rights continue to change over time. Drawing from historical and contemporary human rights cases from around the world, the course will survey actors and organizations (i.e. states, international organizations, and non-state actors) roles in the promotion of human rights. The course will review competing conceptions of human rights to discuss if they are universal, problems of enforcement, and the role of human rights in foreign policy. Major topics in this course includes migration, women's rights, genocide, torture and killing, humanitarian intervention, transnational corporations, and the international criminal court. The materials in this course can be disturbing, so please consider carefully if you are unable to read, watch or discuss violent actions.

**Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the history of human rights and the various actors that impact, define, and enforce human rights.
2. Use analytical skills to determine the most appropriate and effective ways to protect human rights and identify factors that threaten human rights.
3. Analyze the ability of the international community to define, implement and enforce human rights,
4. Develop effective communication skills including listening, speaking, and writing.

**I reserve the right to change this syllabus, including the course schedule, readings, and due dates.**

**All changes will be announced in class and via Moodle.**

**Course Readings:**

(1) Selections from books and articles on the class Moodle page.

(2) Current Event Information (Students should read a newspaper, watch television news, read online news sources, and/or listen to the radio news to learn about current events in preparation for class discussions and class assignments.)

\*\*\*\*You are responsible to read the assigned material *before* each class. The lectures will not restate the information in the readings but build from the information you learned while reading. The readings complement the lectures, and you will be required to know both to do well in the course. Discussions will be held on the assigned readings during the lectures and online. We might occasionally fall behind in the schedule but can catch up quickly.

## Requirements

Successful completion of the course will be based upon the following assignments. Students will be able to monitor their own progress through the course by using the point system and grading scale below

<b>Case Study</b>	<b>40%</b>
• <b>Final Paper</b>	<b>15%</b>
• <b>Final Presentation</b>	<b>10%</b>
• <b>Draft 1 (5%) +2 (10%)</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Class Participation</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Human Rights Journal</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Quizzes (3*10%)</b>	<b>30%</b>

## Course Requirements Explained

### Final Research Paper

You will need to research and write an 12-15 pages (3000 word minimum) paper on a significant Human Rights Case. You will present the information from your paper to the class. Further information will be handed out in class. To make this paper the best it can be we will have two drafts due in throughout the term where peer review will be given for feedback.

### Journals

Your journals are an opportunity to share your thoughts on the course, your personal feelings and to express yourself. These journals will help you engage with the course in a way that is personal to you. There is no right or wrong way to answer these questions, you'll be graded on completing the assignment. There are two check-ins throughout the term where you need to submit the journals. Journals may be done in any format: online blog, Instagram, handwritten journal (you can drop them off with me if we are still online and I'll return them later), word document, PowerPoint, etc. This is an opportunity for you to reflect on the course, and the prompts are to help you engage so you are welcome to interpret and reflect in any way you see fit (I welcome memes, poetry, pictures, etc. that you feel will help you express your thoughts). I will not be sharing these with anyone.

### Letter Grade

Points    Grade  
 100 – 95.0 = A  
 94.9 – 90.0 = A-  
 89.9 – 85.0 = B+  
 84.9 – 80.0 = B

Points    Grade  
 79.9 – 75.0 = B-  
 74.9 – 70.0 = C+  
 69.9 – 65.0 = C  
 64.9 – 60.0 = C-

Points    Grade  
 59.9 – 55.0 = D+  
 54.9 – 50.0 = D  
 49.9 – 0     = F

**Make-up Test Procedures** - No make-up examinations will be given unless **arranged for in advance**. It is the student's responsibility to notify me **before** the examination is given if s/he is unable to take the exam and provide an acceptable reason for the absence. Failure to follow this procedure will result in an automatic one-letter grade reduction for the test, and an additional one-letter grade per missed class period.

**Late Assignments** - All assignments are due by midnight on the dates listed in the Course Schedule. Failure to turn in the assignment on time, or to provide prior notification (with acceptable excuse), will result in an automatic 3% grade reduction for the assignment every day the assignment is missing. Late assignments will be accepted until Friday, 29 April, 2022.

**Grade Appeals or Challenges**: I am not infallible and may make grading errors. You may then email me to make an appointment to discuss the problem and fill out the grade appeal form. If you do not use the form and wait 48 hours your challenge will not be accepted. The only exception to 48 hours is if you believe your grade was calculated incorrectly, please still fill out the form. If you have fully read and understand the syllabus and would like 3 bonus points on your final grade, please send me a cat meme by email with the subject line "PLS 451\_Syllabus Read"!

If you have a question or concern regarding your performance on an assignment or an exam, **you must wait 48 hours** after the exam or assignment has been handed back to the class to contact me. You should also present an email statement that concisely expresses a substantive and legitimate reason for the request. "Substantive and legitimate" reasons include a grade miscalculation or a misunderstanding between the instructor and student, specifically in terms of the content of the student's work. Your appeal will be rejected if it does not satisfy these conditions. You have two weeks to appeal the assignment once the work is handed back to the entire class, and no grade challenges will be entertained afterward. Please also note that if you appeal a grade on an assignment and I decide to reexamine the assignment, the grade may go up or down. It will be treated as a new grade on the assignment, and all aspects of the assignment are open to reexamination.

**Communication with the Instructor**: If you have any suggestions, comments, and questions about the course, political science, or graduate school, feel free to email me to set up an appointment to chat. Please allow 24 hours for a response when contacting me during the week, and up to 48 hours on the weekends. I will use email and our Moodle site to communicate with you about course assignments, activities, and any changes to the course schedule or syllabus.

**Academic Integrity**: Plagiarism and other academic dishonesty/misconduct will not be tolerated. Cheating and dishonesty on tests/ assignments (using unauthorized sources of information, and/or providing or receiving unauthorized assistance of any form of academic work), and plagiarism (presenting someone else's material as your own) will result in an F for the assignment, and possible failure of the class and disciplinary action by the university.

It is your responsibility to know and abide by the Student Code of Conduct for Nazarbayev University. Violations of this policy may include, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism (including "patchwriting"), aid of academic dishonesty, fraud check-in, fabrication, and threatening behavior. These instances and other academic dishonesty/misconduct will be handled according to the requirements and procedures in the Student Code of Conduct for Nazarbayev University. Students should also be familiar with the university's official statement on academic misconduct, plagiarism, cheating, and falsification of documents:

**Academic misconduct** is an act in which a student:

1. Seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation (plagiarism);
2. Uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;
3. Forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
4. Intentionally impedes or damages the academic work or others;
5. Engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of any student's academic performance;
6. Engages in any form of cheating on an exam or assignment;
7. Assists other students in any of these acts.

**Plagiarism** is intentionally or carelessly presenting the work of another as one's own. It includes submitting an assignment purporting to be the student's original work which has wholly or in part been created by another person. It also includes the presentation of the work, ideas, representations, or words of another person without customary and proper acknowledgement of sources. Plagiarism occurs when a person:

1. Directly copies one or more sentences of another person's written work without proper citation. If another writer's words are used, you must place quotation marks around the quoted material and include a footnote or other indication of the source of the quotation. This includes cut and paste from the internet or other electronic sources;
2. Changes words but copies the sentence structure of a source without giving credit to the original source, or closely paraphrases one or more paragraphs without acknowledgement of the source of the ideas, or uses graphs, figures, drawings, charts or other visual/audio materials without acknowledging the source or the permission of the author;
3. Submits false or altered information in any academic exercise. This may include making up data for an experiment, altering data, citing nonexistent articles, contriving sources, etc.;
4. Turns in all or part of assignment done by another student and claims it as their own;
5. Uses a paper writing service, has another student write a paper, or uses a foreign language translation and submits it as their own original work;
6. In computer programming class, uses computer code written by another student.

**Cheating.** Cheating harms the very fiber of the University community. Honest students are put at a disadvantage due to the unfairness of the act and the potential that the grading structure of the class may be altered to their disadvantage. Students who cheat do not receive a real education, depriving themselves of the experience of how to learn. Cheating also damages the reputation of the University as well as the fabric of society. Finally, cheating damages the ethics of the individual, teaching them a wrong approach to life that will not be sustainable in their future careers. Cheating occurs when a person:

1. Gains or provides unauthorized access to examination materials;
2. Uses notes, mobile phones, books, calculators or other materials/devices during an examination without the permission of the instructor;
3. Copies from another student's exam sheet with or without their permission or allow a student to copy from their exam sheet;
4. Obstructs or interferes with another student's efforts in an academic exercise;
5. States a dishonest reason in a request for an extension for an exam or paper;
6. Continue to write even when time is up during an exam;
7. Talks during an examination period;
8. Asks another student take an examination or quiz;
9. Commits any other action that gives a student an unfair advantage during an examination period or on any assignment being graded for credit;

10. Assists in, facilitates, organizes or arranges any of the above-mentioned actions.

**Falsification of documents.** Falsification of documents is a form of academic dishonesty that deliberately seeks to misrepresent some aspect of the student. Falsification of Documents occurs when a person:

1. Presents a falsified application form, financial aid form or any other official form submitted to the University;
2. Presents a falsified or misleading medical certificate in order to obtain an excuse for a class absence, examination absence or late work or for any other reasons;
3. Uses a falsified or illegally altered student identification card;
4. Tampers with transcripts or other academic records.

