PSC 767: International Human Rights
Fall 2023
Tu 9:30-12:15, Eggers 012

Professor Lamis Abdelaaty
Email: labdelaa@syr.edu
Virtual Office Hours: Th 9:30-11:30

Course Description This graduate seminar surveys human rights issues in world politics. It is grounded in the international relations field, but students are expected to engage with ideas from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. Topics covered include the sources of violations, the role of international institutions and non-state actors, and explanations for commitment and compliance. We also explore transitional justice and rights-based approaches to development. The emphasis throughout the course is on critically assessing the rationales, trade-offs, and outcomes associated with international human rights.

Course Requirements
Participation (30%) Students should arrive at every class having carefully read the assigned texts and ready to discuss them. To prepare for this discussion, students should familiarize themselves with the concepts, argument, methodology, and findings of each reading. At a minimum, every student should be able to offer an assessment and/or pose questions of each reading.

Discussion Papers & Comments (30%) Each student will write two short analytical discussion papers (5-6 pages each) for circulation to the whole class and will serve as a commentator on two occasions. Students must circulate their discussion papers to the class no later than noon on the Friday preceding the relevant session.

Research Paper or Policy Report & Comments (40%) Each student will write a 15-25 page research paper or policy report. I expect that most of these papers will address a substantive puzzle or problem involving international human rights, and will use concepts discussed in the course to analyze the relevant set of issues. Students are to consult with the instructor about a paper topic before fall break, and are to submit a one-page statement of topic by October 17. The last three sessions of the term will be devoted to discussions of the arguments that students propose to make in their papers. Again, brief papers will be circulated in advance and commentators will initiate the discussion.

Policies

- *Faith Tradition Observances*: Syracuse University's Religious Observances Policy ecognizes the diversity of faiths represented in the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holy days according to their traditions. Under the policy, students are given an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance, provided they notify their instructors no later than the academic drop deadline. For observances occurring before the drop deadline, notification is required at least two academic days in advance. Students may enter their observances in MySlice under Student Services/Enrollment/My Religious Observances/Add a Notification.

- *Disability Statement*: Syracuse University values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. There may be aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion and full participation in this course. I invite any student to contact me to discuss strategies and/or accommodations (academic adjustments) that may be essential to your success and to collaborate with the Center for Disability Resources (CDR) in this process. If you would like to discuss disability-accommodations or register with CDR, please visit Center for Disability Resources. Please call (315) 443-4498 or email disabilityresources@syr.edu for more detailed information. The CDR is responsible for coordinating disability-related academic accommodations and will work with the student to develop an access plan. Since academic accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact CDR as soon as possible to begin this process.

- *Academic Integrity*: Syracuse University's Academic Integrity Policy reflects the high value that we, as a university community, place on honesty in academic work. The policy holds students accountable for the integrity of all work they submit and for upholding course-specific, as well as university-wide, academic integrity expectations. The policy governs citation and use of sources, the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments, and truthfulness in all academic matters, including course attendance and participation. The policy states that any work a student submits for a course must be solely their own unless the instructor explicitly allows collaboration or editing. The policy also requires students to acknowledge their use of other peoples' language, images or other original creative or scholarly work through appropriate citation. These expectations extend to the new, fast-growing realm of artificial intelligence (AI) as well as to the use of websites that charge fees or require uploading of course materials to obtain exam solutions or assignments. Students are required to ask their instructor whether use of these tools is permitted – and if so, to what extent – before using them to complete any assignment or exam. Students are also required to seek advance permission from instructors if they wish to submit the same work in more than one course. Failure to receive this permission in advance may violate the Academic Integrity Policy. Under the policy, instructors who seek to penalize a student for a suspected violation must first report the violation to the Center for Learning and Student Success (CLASS). Students may not drop or withdraw from courses in which they face

a suspected violation. Instructors must wait to assign a final course grade until a suspected violation is reviewed and upheld or overturned. Upholding Academic Integrity includes abiding by instructors' individual course expectations, which may include the protection of their intellectual property. Students should not upload, distribute, or otherwise share instructors' course materials without permission. Students found in violation of the policy are subject to grade sanctions determined by the course instructor and non-grade sanctions determined by the School or College where the course is offered, as outlined in the Violation and Sanction Classification Rubric. Students are required to read an online summary of the University's academic integrity expectations and provide an electronic signature agreeing to abide by them twice a year during preterm check-in on MySlice. Using artificial intelligence to complete any assignments is prohibited in this course. AI detection tools including Turnitin's built-in AI writing indicator, may be used as one factor in evaluating potential inappropriate use of AI in this course. The Violation and Sanction Classification Rubric establishes recommended guidelines for the determination of grade penalties by faculty and instructors, while also giving them discretion to select the grade penalty they believe most suitable, including course failure, regardless of violation level. Any established violation in this course may result in course failure regardless of violation level.

- *Turnitin*: This class will use the plagiarism detection and prevention system Turnitin. You will have the option to submit your papers to Turnitin to check that all sources you use have been properly acknowledged and cited before you submit the paper to me. I will also submit all papers you write for this class to Turnitin, which compares submitted documents against documents on the Internet and against student papers submitted to Turnitin at Syracuse University and at other colleges and universities. I will take your knowledge of the subject matter of this course and your writing level and style into account in interpreting the originality report. Keep in mind that all papers you submit for this class will become part of the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers.

Required Texts   None. All readings are available electronically via Blackboard.

Course Outline

Aug 29 – Introduction

Sep 5 – Methods

- Christopher J. Fariss, "Respect for Human Rights has Improved Over Time: Modeling the Changing Standard of Accountability," *American Political Science Review* 108, no. 2 (2014): 297–318.

- David Cingranelli and Mikhail Filippov, "Are Human Rights Practices Improving?," *American Political Science Review* 112, no. 4 (2018): 1083–1089.

- Ann Marie Clark and Kathryn Sikkink, "Information Effects and Human Rights Data: Is the Good News about Increased Human Rights Information Bad News for Human Rights Measures?," *Human Rights Quarterly* 35, no. 3 (2013): 539–568.

- Christian Davenport and Patrick Ball, "Views to a Kill: Exploring the Implications of Source Selection in the Case of Guatemalan State Terror, 1977-1995," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 46, no. 3 (2002): 427–450.

- Emilie M. Hafner-Burton and James Ron, "Seeing Double: Human Rights Impact through Qualitative and Quantitative Eyes," *World Politics* 61, no. 2 (2009): 360–401.

Sep 12 – Repression

- Christian Davenport, "State Repression and Political Order," *Annual Review of Political Science* 10 (2007): 1–23.

- Jacqueline H. R. DeMeritt and Joseph K. Young, "A Political Economy of Human Rights: Oil, Natural Gas, and State Incentives to Repress," *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 30, no. 2 (2013): 99–120.

- Reed M. Wood and Thorin M. Wright, "Responding to Catastrophe: Repression Dynamics Following Rapid-onset Natural Disasters," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 60, no. 8 (2016): 1446–1472.

- James A. Piazza and James Igoe Walsh, "Transnational Terror and Human Rights," *International Studies Quarterly* 53, no. 1 (2009): 125–148.

- Suparna Chaudhry, "The Assault on Civil Society: Explaining State Repression of NGOs," *International Organization,* 76, no. 3 (2022): 549–590.

Sep 19 – Commitment

- Emilie M. Hafner-Burton, "International Regimes for Human Rights," *Annual Review of Political Science* 15 (2012): 265–286.

- Andrew Moravcsik, "The Origins of Human Rights Regimes: Democratic Delegation in Postwar Europe," *International Organization* 54, no. 2 (2000): 217–252.

- James Raymond Vreeland, "Political Institutions and Human Rights: Why Dictatorships Enter into the United Nations Convention Against Torture," *International Organization* 62, no. 1 (2008): 65–101.

- Heather M. Smith-Cannoy, "A New Approach to Commitment and Compliance," in *Insincere Commitments: Human Rights Treaties, Abusive States, and Citizen Activism* (Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2012), p. 17–40.

- Jana von Stein, "Exploring the Universe of UN Human Rights Agreements," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 62, no. 4 (2018): 871–899.

Sep 26 – Compliance

- Oona A. Hathaway, "Do Human Rights Treaties Make a Difference?," *Yale Law Journal* 111, no. 8 (2002): 1935–2042.

- Ryan Goodman and Derek Jinks, "Measuring the Effects of Human Rights Treaties," *European Journal of International Law* 14, no. 1 (2003): 171–183.

- Oona A. Hathaway, "Testing Conventional Wisdom," *European Journal of International Law* 14, no. 1 (2003): 185–200.

- Judith Kelley, "Who Keeps International Commitments and Why? The International Criminal Court and Bilateral Nonsurrender Agreements," *American Political Science Review* 101, no. 3 (2007): 573–589.

- Sheryl R. Lightfoot, "Emerging International Indigenous Rights Norms and 'Over-Compliance' in New Zealand and Canada," *Political Science* 62, no. 1 (2010): 84–104.

Oct 3 – Domestic Politics

- Beth A. Simmons, "Theories of Compliance," in *Mobilizing for Human Rights: International Law in Domestic Politics* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009), p. 112–155.

- Eric A. Posner, "Some Skeptical Comments on Beth Simmons' 'Mobilizing for Human Rights'," *New York University Journal of International Law & Politics* 44, no. 3 (2012): 819–831.

- Peace A. Medie, "The Domestic Implementation of International Women's Rights Norms," in *Global Norms and Local Action: The Campaigns to End Violence against Women in Africa* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020), p. 41–50.

- Kiyoteru Tsutsui, "Introduction," in *Rights Make Might: Global Human Rights and Minority Social Movements in Japan* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018), p. 3–25.

- Banks Miller, Linda Camp Keith, and Jennifer S. Holmes, "A Cognitive Approach to IJ Decision Making," in *Immigration Judges and U.S. Asylum Policy* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014), p. 48–83.

Oct 17 – Socialization

- Thomas Risse and Stephen C. Ropp, "Introduction and Overview," in *The Persistent Power of Human Rights: From Commitment to Compliance*, ed. Thomas Risse, Stephen C. Ropp, and Kathryn Sikkink (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013), p. 3–25.

- Ryan Goodman and Derek Jinks, "Three Mechanisms of Social Influence," in *Socializing States: Promoting Human Rights through International Law* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013), p. 21–37.

- Darren Hawkins, "Explaining Costly International Institutions: Persuasion and Enforceable Human Rights Norms," *International Studies Quarterly* 48, no. 4 (2004): 779–804.

- Gina Lei Miller, Ryan M. Welch, and Andrew J. Vonasch, "The Psychological Effects of State Socialization: IGO Membership Loss and Respect for Human Rights," *International Interactions* 45, no. 1 (2019): 113–143.

- Rochelle Terman and Zoltán I Búzás, "A House Divided: Norm Fragmentation in the International Human Rights Regime," *International Studies Quarterly* 65, no. 2 (2021): 488–499.

Oct 24 – Activism

- Raul Pacheco-Vega and Amanda Murdie, "When Do Environmental NGOs Work? A Test of the Conditional Effectiveness of Environmental Advocacy," *Environmental Politics* 30, nos. 1-2 (2021): 180–201.

- Erin Aylward, "Intergovernmental Organizations and Nongovernmental Organizations: The Development of an International Approach to LGBT Issues," in *The Oxford Handbook of Global LGBT and Sexual Diversity Politics*, ed. Michael J. Bosia, Sandra M. McEvoy, and Momin Rahman (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020), p. 103–120.

- R. Charli Carpenter, "Studying Issue (Non)-Adoption in Transnational Advocacy Networks," *International Organization* 61, no. 3 (2007): 643–667.

- Sally Engle Merry, "Transnational Human Rights and Local Activism: Mapping the Middle," *American Anthropologist* 108, no. 1 (2006): 38–51.

- Nina Hall, "Campaigning," in *Transnational Advocacy in the Digital Era: Think Global, Act Local* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022), p. 84–117.

Oct 31 – Economics

- David L. Richards, Ronald D. Gelleny, and David H. Sacko, "Money with a Mean Streak? Foreign Economic Penetration and Government Respect for Human Rights in Developing Countries," *International Studies Quarterly* 45, no. 2 (2001): 219–239.

- Emilie M. Hafner-Burton, "Trading Human Rights: How Preferential Trade Agreements Influence Government Repression," *International Organization* 59, no. 3 (2005): 593–629.

- M. Rodwan Abouharb and David L. Cingranelli, "The Human Rights Effects of World Bank Structural Adjustment, 1981-2000," *International Studies Quarterly* 50, no. 2 (2006): 233–262.

- Ryan Yu-Lin Liou, Amanda Murdie, and Dursun Peksen, "Revisiting the Causal Links Between Economic Sanctions and Human Rights Violations," *Political Research Quarterly* 74, no. 4 (2021): 808–821.

- Layna Mosley, "Workers' Rights in Global Value Chains: Possibilities for Protection and for Peril," *New Political Economy* 22, no. 2 (2017): 153–168.

Nov 7 – Development

- Paul Nelson and Ellen Dorsey, "New Rights Advocacy in a Global Public Domain," *European Journal of International Relations* 13, no. 2 (2007): 187–216.

- Joel E. Oestreich, "The World Bank: Pushing at the Boundaries of 'Economic'," in *Power and Principle: Human Rights Programming in International Organizations* (Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2007), p. 65–116.

- Shannon Kindornay, James Ron, and Charli Carpenter, "Rights-Based Approaches to Development: Implications for NGOs," *Human Rights Quarterly* 34, no. 2 (2012): 472–506.

- Hannah Miller, "Rejecting "Rights-Based Approaches" to Development: Alternative Engagements With Human Rights," *Journal of Human Rights* 16, no. 1 (2017): 61–78.

- Michelle Jurkovich, "Hunger at the Nexus of Rights and Development," in *Feeding the Hungry: Advocacy and Blame in the Global Fight Against Hunger* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2020), p. 83–108.

Nov 14 – Transitional Justice

- Melissa Nobles, "The Prosecution of Human Rights Violations," *Annual Review of Political Science* 13 (2010): 165–182.

- Kathryn Sikkink, "The Streams of the Justice Cascade," in *The Justice Cascade: How Human Rights Prosecutions Are Changing World* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2011), p. 96–116.

- Allison Danner and Erik Voeten, "Who is Running the International Criminal Justice System?," in *Who Governs the Globe?*, ed. Deborah D. Avant, Martha Finnemore, and Susan K. Sell (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), p. 35–71.

- Kelebogile Zvobgo, "Demanding Truth: The Global Transitional Justice Network and the Creation of Truth Commissions," *International Studies Quarterly* 64, no. 3 (2020): 609–625.

- Jack Snyder and Leslie Vinjamuri, "Trials and Errors: Principle and Pragmatism in Strategies of International Justice," *International Security* 28, no. 3 (2003/4): 5–44.

Nov 28, Dec 5, Dec 12 – Paper/Report Workshops

Dec 19 – Research paper or policy report due