

# HUMAN RIGHTS ANTHROPOLOGY

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ANTH 4701- 042 – SPRING 2020  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

**Instructor: Kimberly Wren, Ph.D.**

**Contact Information:** Office: Sycamore Hall 130  
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM and by  
appointment  
E-mail: Kimberly.Wren@unt.edu

**Class Time:** Tuesdays and Thursdays (12:30 - 1:50 PM)

**Class Location:** Physical Education Building 219

## **Course Description:**

This course will focus on the events that led to the burgeoning of human rights as a concept and as something in need of protection. We will evaluate human rights theory and practice. We will also examine the global, regional, and local ideologies and doctrines at the heart of human rights violations and studies. These ideologies and doctrines include nationalism, militarism, extremism, relativism, liberalism, and neoliberalism. The human rights violations addressed in this course will include genocide, ethnocide, mass violence, mass disappearances, gendered violence, child soldiering, human trafficking, and other forms of political and structural violence. We will analyze, in great detail, the United Nations human rights conventions (i.e., treaties) and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights in light of compliance, obligation, avoidance, and impact. Moreover, students will explore the role of anthropologists in addressing, investigating, and publicizing human rights violations and their impact on communities. They will also explore the role of anthropologists in peace talks, reconciliation, transitional justice, and international, tribunal, and asylum courts.

## **Learning Objectives:**

By the end of the course, students should:

- have a general understanding of human rights theory and practice,
- have a general understanding of the ideologies and doctrines at the heart of human rights violations and studies,
- have a general understanding of human rights conventions/treaties and why governments do or do not comply with conventions,
- understand the impact of genocide, ethnocide, mass violence, mass disappearances, gendered violence, child soldiering, human trafficking, and other forms of political, economic, and structural violence on communities,
- understand the cultural elements that contribute to different interpretations of human rights,
- know what obstacles determine how, when, or if human rights violations are addressed or receive an adequate response,

- understand the role peace talks, reconciliation, transitional justice, and international, tribunal, and asylum courts play in addressing human rights violations , and
- understand the role anthropologists play in addressing human rights issues around the world

**Course Texts:**

Posner EA. 2014. The Twilight of Human Rights Law. Oxford University Press.

All additional course readings will be uploaded to Canvas for your convenience. A bibliography of all books, chapters, and articles used in this course is provided at the end of this syllabus. These readings are subject to change. Changes to assigned readings will be made at least one week in advance. These changes will also be announced in class and posted to Canvas.

**Course Prerequisite:**

There is no prerequisite for this course

**Course Structure:**

The first session will be an introduction to the course syllabus, student expectations, and teacher expectations. In all future sessions, I will typically provide a lecture covering the topic of the day during the first half of the class. Students are encouraged to ask questions and provide input during lectures. The second half of the session will be treated as an open-ended discussion of the lecture and assigned readings. During the discussion, a few members of the class will be responsible for leading the discussion and focusing attention on the purpose and/or main points in assigned readings. I will also assist in leading each discussion. I will delegate who will be responsible for each week's discussion during the first session.

**Course Website:**

All course materials, additional readings, and any other resources necessary for this course will be available on Canvas. **All assignments must be submitted on Canvas or to my UNT e-mail directly if you are having issues with Canvas. Please use your UNT e-mail ONLY to communicate with me or submit assignments.**

**Evaluation:**

This course is grounded in critical thinking. There will be many opportunities for you to sharpen your critical thinking skills as the class discussions, critiques, and papers will all require critical thinking. **All critiques and papers must be submitted using Microsoft Word, Times New Roman font, 12-point font, double-spaced, 1 inch margins (top, bottom, right, and left).**

**Class Participation:** (15% of total grade)

Participation in class discussions is 15% of your grade. All relevant questions, input, and observations are welcome. I expect students to respect each other's input, whether you agree or not. I welcome challenges to any perspective, including my own, as long as they are presented respectfully. Your student-lead discussion will satisfy your participation grade. **Do not miss class on the day you are leading a class discussion! If you must miss class, let me know as soon as possible so that I can make future arrangements for you to lead discussion.**

**Critiques:** (20% of total grade; due by 11:59 PM on Fridays)

Students are required to submit four critiques during this course. Students must select a peer-reviewed, anthropologically relevant journal article or reading from among the readings provided in this syllabus. Each critique must include the name of the article and the author(s) in the title. The text (not including the title) must be 125-150 words and include:

- a description of the main argument or purpose of the work
- a description of the human rights violations that occurred
  - Did they violate the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), etc.?
- who violated human rights
  - Who is the perpetrator and who is the victim?
- evidence supporting the violation(s)
- whether or not the perpetrators and/or victims perceive violations as human rights violations
- obstacles (cultural, religious, political, social, geographical, linguistic, etc.) to addressing these violations
- information regarding attempts to address these violations
- your opinion the on work

Please take these critiques seriously as they are easy grades and make up a sizable portion of your total grade. All critiques are due on Fridays. I will not accept late critiques without prior notification or a legitimate excuse.

**Topic Selection:** (5% of total grade; due by 11:59 PM on 01/28/20)

There are several topics for the term paper provided on Canvas. Students must submit their topic selection by 11:59 PM on 01/28/20. The topics covered in this course are not exhaustive. Students are encouraged to explore other topics related to indigenous experiences for their term papers. If you are interested in a topic that is not on Canvas, discuss the topic with me and I will decide if the topic is relevant to this course.

**Bibliography:** (15% of total grade; due by 11:59 PM on 02/12/20)

Students must submit a bibliography by 11:59 PM on 02/12/20. You are required to use a minimum of eight **credible** sources for your paper. We will discuss what sources are **credible** and what sources are **not credible**. **An example of a bibliography is provided at the end of this syllabus.** I will devote class time on 02/11/20 to discuss any concerns or issues you might have constructing your bibliographies or obtaining credible sources.

**Rough Draft Term Paper:** (20% of total grade; due by 11:59 PM on 03/06/20)

Students must submit a rough draft of their 4-5 page paper by 11:59 PM on 03/06/20. The purpose of this paper is to develop your writing and **critical thinking skills** by pushing you to analyze and think critically about the information you read regarding human rights. Your paper should address issues, questions, and/or concerns related to a human rights violation anywhere in the world. (**Use your critiques in your paper!!**) Your paper

should represent your own independent work. If, after reviewing your paper, I think it is necessary to have a one-on-one, I will let you know directly via email. **Do not wait until the last minute to write your draft.** I will give you all an opportunity to ask questions about your rough draft in class on 03/05/20. Your paper should include (see **political science example on Canvas**):

1. an introduction
  - a description of the human rights violations that occurred
  - Who is the perpetrator and who is the victim?
2. background research on the topic supported by cited references,
  - evidence supporting the violation(s)
  - research demonstrating that these violations occurred
3. whether or not the perpetrators and/or victims perceive violations as human rights violations
  - describe how violations affected communities
4. obstacles (cultural, religious, political, social, geographical, linguistic, etc.) to addressing these violations
5. information regarding attempts to address these violations
  - a discussion of how researchers, governments, tribunals, the international community, the public, etc. have addressed or responded to the violation,
6. your opinion on responses to human rights violations and any solutions to future responses

**Final Term Paper:** (25% of total grade; due by 11:59 PM on **TBD**)

Students must submit their final paper by 11:59 PM on **TBD**. **Late papers will only be accepted under extenuating circumstances.** I will evaluate your final paper in light of the critiques I gave you on your rough drafts. If you address the issues I point out in my critiques, you will get a passing grade on your paper. **In short, do not ignore my critique of your rough drafts!** I will give you all an opportunity to ask questions about your paper in class on 04/30/20. If you need more time, make an appointment with me prior to the due date.

**Grading Composition:**

Class Participation.....	150
Critiques.....	200
Topic Selection.....	50
Bibliography.....	150
Rough Draft Term Paper.....	200
<u>Final Tem Paper</u>	<u>250</u>
Total Points.....	1000

**Grading Scale:**

900-1000 A / 800-899 B / 700-799 C / 600-699 D / 0-599 F

## Course Policies:

**Late Work:** Late assignments will not be accepted unless you have shown that there is a legitimate (i.e., medical emergency, loss of a family member, etc.) reason your work is late.

**Attendance:** Attendance is necessary for this course and will be recorded. You will miss information vital to your assignments if you do not attend every class. See <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-039> for the **Student Attendance and Authorized Absences** policy.

**Extra Credit:** Extra credit **might** be offered in this class.

**Misconduct:** The **Code of Student Conduct** and the **Prohibition of Sexual Assault and Retaliation** are available at <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>. Review these sources for information regarding unacceptable and inappropriate behavior. Such behavior is not tolerated on UNT's campus and will not be tolerated in class.

**Academic Integrity:** The **Student Academic Integrity** policy is available at <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>. In short, cheating, fabrication, forgery, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and sabotage are not tolerated at UNT.

**ADA Accommodations Statement:** "The University of North Texas (UNT or University) does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission, treatment, or access to its programs or activities, nor in employment in its programs or activities. The University is committed to providing equal educational access for qualified students with disabilities in accordance with state and federal laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as Amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. In addition, the University is committed to making all programs and activities sponsored by UNT accessible, as required by the Texas Accessibility Standards and the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines. To this end, all academic units are willing to make reasonable and appropriate adjustments to the classroom environment and the teaching, testing, or learning methodologies in order to facilitate equality of educational access for persons with disabilities." This statement and more information related ADA accommodations can be found at [https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/16.001\\_StudentAccommodation.2018Pub2.pdf](https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/16.001_StudentAccommodation.2018Pub2.pdf). In addition, students with disabilities who are seeking accommodations are required to register with the Office of Disability Accommodations (ODA). For more information visit the ODA website at <https://disability.unt.edu/> or contact the ODA directly at 940-565-4323.

**Contacting the Professor:** I am available on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 8:00 AM and 12:00 PM. I am also available by appointment. You can contact me via email at [kimberly.wren@unt.edu](mailto:kimberly.wren@unt.edu). All emails must be submitted from your UNT e-mail address. Please give me 24 hours to respond before you send a follow-up email during the week and give me until Monday if you send an email on the weekend.

### Course Schedule:

DATE	DEADLINES	TOPIC	ASSIGNED READINGS
14 January 2020, Tuesday		Course Introduction	Course Syllabus
16 January 2020, Thursday		Burgeoning of Human Rights, Human Rights Theory and Practice	Posner 2014 Chapter 1; Goodale 2006; Universal Declaration of Human Rights
21 January 2020, Tuesday		The Law, Treaties, and Institutions of Human Rights	Posner 2014 Chapter 2
23 January 2020, Thursday		1. Why Treaties 2. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)	Posner 2014 Chapter 3; Hill 2016; Kanter 2019: 579-590; Hoewe and Zeldes 2012
28 January 2020, Tuesday	<b>Topic Selection, 11:59 PM</b>	1. Compliance 2. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) & Optional Protocol	Posner 2014 Chapter 4; Rusesabagina 2006*; Muller and Schrage 2014
30 January 2020, Thursday		1. To Comply or not Comply 2. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)	Posner 2014 Chapter 5; Ture & Gultieri 2017; Veiga 2014; Cerón and Jerome 2019
31 January 2020, Friday	<b>Critique #1, 11:59 PM</b>		
4 February 2020, Tuesday		Covenant on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)	Vanderweert 2001; Rourke and Wiget 2014
6 February 2020, Thursday		1. Human Rights and War 2. Convention Against Torture, and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)	Posner 2014 Chapter 6; Taussig 2002*
11 February 2020, Tuesday		Discuss Bibliographies	
12 February 2020, Wednesday	<b>Bibliography, 11:59 PM</b>		
13 February 2020, Thursday		Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	Cetorelli et al., 2017; Obertová and Cattaneo 2018
18 February 2020, Tuesday		Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (CRC-OP (Armed Conflict))	Medeiros et al., 2019; Moynaugh 2016
20 February 2020, Thursday		Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (CRC-OP (Sale of Children/Prostitution/Pornography))	Cojocar 2015; <b>TBD</b>
25 February 2020, Tuesday		International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMC)	McVeigh 2015; Rother 2017
27 February 2020,		Convention of the Rights of Persons	Yapp 2017; Mikus 2018;

Thursday		with Disabilities (CRPD)	Kanter 2019: 590-609
28 February 2020, Friday	<b>Critique #2, 11:59 PM</b>		
3 March 2020, Tuesday		International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICCPED)	Ohlson 2019; Zia 2016
5 March 2020, Thursday		Discuss Rough Draft	
6 March 2020, Friday	<b>Rough Draft, 11:59 PM</b>		
<b>9-13 March 2020</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		
17 March 2020, Tuesday		Why Violate Human Rights: Ideologies and Doctrines	Maček 2005*; Giroux 2019; Hallett 2019
19 March 2020, Thursday		1. Impact of Human Rights 2. Cultural Understandings of Human Rights	Hedlund 2017; Andro and Lesclingand 2016; Mende 2018
24 March 2020, Tuesday		1. How, When, If, or Why: Responding to Human Rights Violations 2. The Public's Response	Smith 2017; Naidu and Behura 2017; Cho and Paik 2019; Dugo and Eisen 2018
26 March 2020, Thursday		Peace Talks, Reconciliation, & Transitional justice	Burnet 2010*; Niezen 2016; Rousseau 2019
31 March 2020, Tuesday		1. International, Tribunal, & Asylum Courts 2. Translated Justice	Fluehr-Lobban & Lobban 2018; Ekwealor 2018; Garcia 2019
2 April 2020, Thursday		Human Rights Violations: Africa	Portaankorva 2015; Joireman 2018; Chipaike et al., 2019
3 April 2020, Friday	<b>Critique #3, 11:59 PM</b>		
7 April 2020, Tuesday		Human Rights Violations: Asia	Kim and Kim 1998; Giles 2003*
9 April 2020, Thursday		Human Rights Violations: Australia and New Zealand	Holcombe 2015; McCormack 2016
14 April 2020, Tuesday		Human Rights Violations: Europe & The Middle East	Webber 2017; Kalir 2015
16 April 2020, Thursday		Human Rights Violations: North America	Rutecki 2011; Garcia-Del Moral 2011; Campbell et al., 2017
21 April 2020, Tuesday		Human Rights Violations: Latin America	Bernardi and Fondebrider 2007; Calmon 2019
23 April 2020, Thursday		Three Dead Ends and The White Man's Burden	Posner 2014 Chapter 7; Chilton and Posner 2018
24 April 2020, Friday	<b>Critique #4, 11:59 PM</b>		
28 April 2020, Tuesday		Anthropology's Contributions to Human Rights	Rhodes 2001; Speed 2006
30 April 2020, Thursday		Final Paper Review	
<b>4-8 May 2020, Friday</b>	<b>Final Paper, 11:59 PM</b>		

## Bibliography

### APA format link:

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/apa\\_style/apa\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/reference\\_list\\_basic\\_rules.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/reference_list_basic_rules.html)

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