

# HUMAN RIGHTS ANTHROPOLOGY

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ANTH 4701- 042 – SPRING 2021  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

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

**Contact Information:** Office: Sycamore Hall 130  
Office hours: Tuesday 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM on Zoom and by appointment  
E-mail: Kimberly.Wren@unt.edu

**Class Time:** Tuesdays (5:00 - 6:20 PM)

**Class Location:** BLB 155

## **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:**

There will be many opportunities for you to sharpen your critical thinking skills in this class. Your discussions, critiques, and finals project will all require critical thinking. **All work must be completed 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)

As there are only 15 days that we meet this semester, **unexcused** absences will be counted against you. In other words, attendance is mandatory on Tuesday via Zoom or face-to-face. Each day is worth 10 points. Please communicate with me if you are having trouble attending class. I cannot accommodate you if you do not communicate with me.

**Discussions:** (24.5% of total grade; due on Saturdays)

There will be seven discussion questions you need to respond to in this course. Each response is worth 35 points. All relevant input and observations are welcome. I expect students to respect each other's input. I welcome challenges to any perspective, including my own, as long as they are presented respectfully. **All discussion responses must be between 100 and 150 words. Use the Discussion Rubric for guidance.** I will address each student independently regarding any comments I have concerning individual responses. You will have a week to complete each discussion question. All discussions are due at the end of the week on Saturdays at 11:59pm.

**Critiques:** (48% of total grade; due by 11:59 PM on Saturdays)

Students are required to submit six critiques during this course. Each critique is worth 80 points. See the **Critique Rubric**. Students must select a peer-reviewed, anthropologically relevant journal article or reading from among the readings provided the week the assignment is due. Each critique must include the name of the article number and the author(s) in the title. The text (not including the title) must be **150-250** words and include:

- Describe the main argument, purpose, or context of the article
- Describe the rights violated, hate crime committed, or discriminatory act, etc.
  - Did they violate the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), etc.?
- Who is the perpetrator and who is the victim?
- Point out evidence supporting the violation; evidence from the material you chose.
- Did the perpetrators and/or victims perceive violations as violations?
- Point out obstacles (cultural, religious, legal, political, social, geographical, linguistic, etc.) to addressing these violations.
- Is there any information regarding attempts to address these violations?
- What is 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 Saturdays. I will not accept late critiques without prior notification or a legitimate excuse.

**Final Project:** (12.5% of total grade; due by 11:59 PM on Saturdays)

The final project is worth 125 points. You must analyze or evaluate the accomplishments of a non-government organization (NGO). The format is up to you. Some options include: PowerPoint presentation, essay, google slides, etc. I will have to approve your format. You are required to address the following questions: Who started the NGO? What motivated them to start of the NGO (be specific)? What is the purpose of the NGO? What are the goals of the NGO? Were these goals realized (Have these goals been realized)? Which communities supported (support) the NGO and how? Which communities did not (do not) support the NGO and why? What obstacles did/does the NGO face? Is the NGO still active? If not, why? What is your opinion on the NGO? Refer to the **Final Project Rubric**.

**Grading Composition:**

Class Participation (15 x 10).....	150
Discussions (7 x 35).....	245
Critiques (6 x 80).....	480
Final Project.....	125
Total Points.....	1000

**Grading Scale:**

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

**Assignment Policy:**

The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

**Transmission and Recording of Student Images in Electronically-Delivered Courses:**

1. No permission is needed from a student for his or her image or voice to be transmitted live via videoconference or streaming media, but all students should be informed when courses are to be conducted using either method of delivery.
2. In the event an instructor records student presentations, he or she must obtain permission from the student using a signed release in order to use the recording for future classes in accordance with the Use of Student-Created Work guidelines above.
3. Instructors who **video-record** their class lectures with the intention of re-using some or all of recordings for future class offerings must notify students on the course syllabus if students' images may appear on video. Instructors are also advised to provide accommodation for students who do not wish to appear in class recordings.

This course employs lecture capture technology to record class sessions. Students may occasionally appear on video. The lecture recordings will be available to you for study purposes and may also be reused in future course offerings.

No notification is needed if only audio and slide capture is used or if the video only records the instructor's image. However, the instructor is encouraged to let students know the recordings will be available to them for study purposes.

**Class Recordings & Student Likenesses (Delete this statement if not applicable)**

Synchronous (live) sessions in this course will be recorded for students enrolled in this class section to refer to throughout the semester. Class recordings are the intellectual property of the university or instructor and are reserved for use only by students in this class and only for educational purposes. Students may not post or otherwise share the recordings outside the class, or outside the Canvas Learning Management System, in any form. Failing to follow this restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action.

## **Course Policies:**

**Late Work:** Late discussions, critiques, and the final project 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:** As there are only 15 days that we meet this semester, unexcused absences will be counted against you. 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.

**COVID-19 Impact on Attendance:** While attendance is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

**Class Materials for Remote Instruction:** The UNT fall schedule requires this course to have fully remote instruction beginning November 28th. Additional remote instruction may be necessary if community health conditions change or you need to self-isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19. Students will need access to a [webcam and microphone – faculty member to include what other basic equipment is needed] to participate in fully remote portions of the class. Additional required classroom materials for remote learning include: [list specific software, supplies, equipment or system requirements needed for the course]. Information on how to be successful in a remote learning environment can be found at <https://online.unt.edu/learn>.

**Statement on Face Covering:** Statement 2: Face coverings are required in all UNT facilities. Students are expected to wear face coverings during this class. If you are unable to wear a face covering due to a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Access to request an accommodation. UNT face covering requirements are subject to change due to community health guidelines. Any changes will be communicated via the instructor.

**Extra Credit:** Extra credit might be offered on some assignments.

**Acceptable Student Behavior:** Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's Code of Student Conduct (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more. 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>. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

**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). Furthermore, UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the [ODA website \(https://disability.unt.edu/\)](https://disability.unt.edu/) or contact the ODA directly at 940-565-4323.

**Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004):** The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic

protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

**Contacting the Professor:** I am available on **Tuesday from 10:00AM-12:00PM** or by appointment and 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 48 hours on the weekend.

### **Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses :**

#### ***Federal Regulation***

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website](http://www.ecfr.gov/) (<http://www.ecfr.gov/>). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

#### ***University of North Texas Compliance***

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
- (2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email [internationaladvising@unt.edu](mailto:internationaladvising@unt.edu)) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

DATE	DEADLINES	TOPIC	ASSIGNED READINGS
<b>Week 1:</b>			
12 January 2021, Tuesday		Course Introduction	Course Syllabus
		Burgeoning of Human Rights, Human Rights Theory and Practice	Posner 2014 Chapter 1; Goodale 2006; Universal Declaration of Human Rights
16 January 2021, Saturday	<b>Introduce Yourself</b>		
<b>Week 2:</b>			
19 January 2021, Tuesday		The Law, Treaties, and Institutions of Human Rights	Posner 2014 Chapter 2
		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
23 January 2021, Saturday	<b>Discussion 1</b>		
<b>Week 3:</b>			
26 January 2021, Tuesday		1. Compliance 2. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) & Optional Protocol	Posner 2014 Chapter 4; Rusesabagina 2006*; Muller and Schrage 2014
		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
30 January 2021, Saturday	<b>Critique 1</b>		
<b>Week 4:</b>			
2 February 2021, Tuesday		Covenant on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)	Vanderweert 2001; Rourke and Wiget 2014
		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*
6 February 2021, Saturday	<b>Discussion 2</b>		
<b>Week 5:</b>			
9 February 2021, Tuesday		Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	Cetorelli et al., 2017; Obertová and Cattaneo 2018
		Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of	Medeiros et al., 2019; Moynaugh 2016

		Children in Armed Conflict (CRC-OP (Armed Conflict))	
13 February 2021, Saturday	<b>Critique 2</b>		
<b>Week 6:</b>			
16 February 2021, Tuesday		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>
		International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMC)	McVeigh 2015; Rother 2017
20 February, 2021, Saturday	<b>Discussion 3</b>		
<b>Week 7:</b>			
23 February 2021, Tuesday		Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)	Yapp 2017; Mikus 2018; Kanter 2019: 590-609
		International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICCPED)	Ohlson 2019; Zia 2016
27 February 2021, Saturday	<b>Critique 3</b>		
<b>Week 8:</b>			
2 March 2021, Tuesday		Why Violate Human Rights: Ideologies and Doctrines	Maček 2005*; Giroux 2019; Hallett 2019
		1. Impact of Human Rights 2. Cultural Understandings of Human Rights	Hedlund 2017; Andro and Lesclingand 2016; Mende 2018
6 March 2021, Saturday	<b>Discussion 4</b>		
<b>Week 9:</b>			
9 March 2021, 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
		Peace Talks, Reconciliation, & Transitional justice	Burnet 2010*; Niezen 2016; Rousseau 2019
13 March 2021, Saturday	<b>Critique 4</b>		
<b>Week 10:</b>			
16 March 2021, Tuesday		1. International, Tribunal, & Asylum Courts 2. Translated Justice	Fluehr-Lobban & Lobban 2018; Ekwealor 2018; Garcia 2019
		Human Rights Violations: Africa	Portaankorva 2015; Joireman 2018; Chipaike et al., 2019
20 March 2021, Saturday	<b>Discussion 5</b>		
<b>Week 11:</b>			
23 March 2021, Tuesday		Human Rights Violations: Asia	Kim and Kim 1998; Giles 2003*
		Human Rights Violations:	Holcombe 2015;

		Australia and New Zealand	McCormack 2016
27 March 2021, Saturday	<b>Critique 5</b>		
<b>Week 12:</b>			
30 March 2021, Tuesday		Human Rights Violations: Europe & The Middle East	Webber 2017; Kalir 2015
		Human Rights Violations: North America	Rutecki 2011; Garcia-Del Moral 2011; Campbell et al., 2017
3 April 2021, Saturday	<b>Discussion 6</b>		
<b>Week 13:</b>			
6 April 2021, Tuesday		Human Rights Violations: Latin America	Bernardi and Fondebrider 2007; Calmon 2019
		Three Dead Ends and The White Man's Burden	Posner 2014 Chapter 7; Chilton and Posner 2018
10 April 2021, Saturday	<b>Critique 6</b>		
<b>Week 14:</b>			
13 April 2021, Tuesday		<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
		<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
17 April 2021, Saturday	<b>Discussion 7</b>		
<b>Week 15:</b>			
20 April 2021, Tuesday		Anthropology's Contributions to Human Rights	Rhodes 2001; Speed 2006
21-22 April 2021		Pre-Finals Days	
23 April 2021, Friday		Reading Day	
<b>Week 16:</b>			
1 May 2021, Saturday	<b>FINAL Project, 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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