

HIS 209 – 02 – Global Civil and Human Rights (1760 – present)

MW 3:30 – 4:45, MHRA 1214

Instructor: Virginia L. Summey (vlsumme2@uncg.edu)

Office Hours: MW 1:00 – 3:00 (MHRA 2103) or by appointment

This syllabus is subject to change

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides a theoretical and historical introduction to human rights, surveying major developments in civil and human rights from 1760 to the present. This course focuses on a selection of important events, historical figures, and international issues that have had global significance. We will examine the development of civil and human rights from the Enlightenment through the Twentieth Century. Because of its broad sweep of historical events and the variety of topics covered, this course makes no claim to be comprehensive. No single course can examine all of the important human rights events in world history over two centuries. Instead, we will explore themes such as the relationship between human rights, personal autonomy and state sovereignty, the role the international community has played in the promotion of human rights, and changing conceptions of human rights over time.

This course also serves as an introduction to world history as an approach. World history is about understanding the interconnectedness of history across national borders, and thinking comparatively about events around the globe. Students will be trained to think as historians by analyzing evidence and learning to place evidence in historical context. Students will learn to analyze different types of evidence and make arguments based on such evidence. Articles and books written by historians will also be read and critically analyzed. It is hoped that the material explored in this course will provide the student with a springboard to further study in history in upper level courses.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Students will examine the role of human agency in historical change, as well as understand the larger economic, political and social structures that shape human rights.
- Students will examine interconnections between different parts of the globe, and think comparatively about different cultures and peoples studied.
- Students will be able to historically contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view.
- Students will be able to use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument.
- Students will improve their writing and verbal skills.

COURSE POLICIES:

Attendance:

A student who is not present to sign the attendance sheet when it circulates at beginning of class will be marked “absent.” Once the sheet has circulated the room, no late students will be allowed to sign it. Students who leave class early without permission will be marked absent. More than five absences will lower your Final Grade by one-third of a grade for each subsequent absence (that is, your sixth absence will cause a “B” to become a “B-,” your seventh will make it a “C+,” your eighth will make it a “C,” etc.). Missing a total of 14 or more classes for any reason (one-third of the semester) will result in an automatic “F” for the course. No exceptions. Please use your five un-penalized absences wisely by saving them for emergencies or severe illness. Students are responsible to complete on time all work assigned or due on days in which they are absent.

If you suffer from a chronic illness, or have special needs that make the attendance policy burdensome, you **MUST** inform the instructor in the first week of class, and provide proof of your condition to the Dean of Students. I will do my best to accommodate any legitimate, documented, special needs.

Resources for Students with Disabilities:

Students with recognized disabilities should register with the Office of Accessibility Resources & Services (OARS). OARS is located on the second floor of the Elliott University Center (EUC) in Suite 215 and maintains a webpage at <http://ods.uncg.edu/>. The mission of OARS is to provide, coordinate, and advocate for services which enable undergraduate and graduate students with disabilities to receive equal access to a college education and to all aspects of university life

Participation:

You must take notes during class lectures and be attentive and awake during class. Sleeping in class will cause you to be marked “absent.” There will be a “no-technology” policy enforced in the classroom. Cell phones, laptops, and tablets should be muted or turned off and stored away. No talking, texting, twittering, e-mailing (in other words, stay off the internet!!) during class.

Students are expected to complete the reading assignments in time to participate in class discussion. Participation is vital to your success in this class. Your participation grade will be based on the overall quality of your contributions in the discussion sections—not the quantity of contributions you make. Please make your contributions informed, intelligent, and constructive.

Grading Policies:

Students earn grades based on the work they submit. A common student misconception is that anyone can earn an A just by following instructions and doing the work. However, just following instructions is the same thing as doing the minimum. Most people do the minimum, and that

makes their work Average (i.e. a C). Doing less than the minimum is either a D (“Below Average”) or an F (“Unsatisfactory”). Doing more than the minimum is worth either a B (“Above Average”) or, in rare cases, an A (“Excellent”). Therefore, students must submit work that proves their performance is better than the majority of their peers in order to earn the highest letter grades.

Assignments:

While there are no exams that require you to memorize names and dates, there will be weekly quizzes at the beginning of Wednesday classes covering class notes and reading assignments for the week.

This course has a heavy reading load, and students are expected to have completed the assigned reading prior to class. Additionally, students will be required to complete three short papers. Students will be able to choose three of five possible prompts. All papers should be written in 12-point Times New Roman font, double spaced with 1” margins. Papers should be a minimum of three pages (maximum of five) and will be turned in using the Assignments feature on Canvas. Due dates are **September 16, October 7, October 28, November 11, and November 23**. Paper topics will be assigned several weeks before the assignment is due. No late papers will be accepted, so plan ahead. Your assignments will be weighted as follows:

Three papers – 20% each

Quizzes – 15%

Final Exam – 15%

Participation – 10%

Academic Integrity Policy:

All work submitted in your name must be your own original work for this class with proper citation or credit given to all sources. All papers will be turned in using the “Assignments” function on Canvas. Each student should be familiar with the Academic Integrity Policy, and the penalties for plagiarism. Refer to this address on the UNCG website for more details:

<http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/>

Required Texts:

Lynn Hunt’s, *Inventing Human Rights* (available online or at the UNCG Bookstore); Course Packet (available at Copy King – 611 W. Gate City Blvd)

Course Schedule:

(Note: the assigned readings are due on the date they are listed on the syllabus. Please view the syllabus prior to each class).

Monday, August 17 – Introductions

Wednesday, August 19 – What are human and civil rights?

Monday, August 24 – American and French Revolutions & the Ideas of the Enlightenment

Wednesday, August 26 – *Reading Due: Lynn, Introduction, Chapter One; The Declaration of Independence; The Declaration of the Rights of Man*

Monday, August 31 – Compromising Human Rights

Wednesday, September 2 – *Reading Due: Lynn, Chapter Two, Chapter Three*

Monday, September 7 – LABOR DAY, No Class

Wednesday, September 9 – The Limits of Rights: The Haitian Revolution;
Reading: Lynn, Chapter Four, Chapter Five

Monday, September 14 – The Atlantic Slave Trade, Slavery in the Americas, and the Abolitionist Movement

Wednesday, September 16 – *Reading: The Atlantic Slave Trade, Excerpt from The Many Headed Hydra, Frederick Douglass, Distress and Discord in Virginia Slave Families (course packet); PAPER #1 DUE*

Monday, September 21 – Imperialism in Africa and around the world

Wednesday, September 23 – *Reading: Excerpt from King Leopold's Ghost (course packet)*

Monday, September 28 – Seneca Falls & the Suffrage Movements in England and the U.S.

Wednesday, September 30 – *Reading: Emmeline Pankhurst's Freedom or Death, The Declaration of Sentiments, Excerpts from Seneca Falls and the Origins of the Women's Rights Movement (course packet)*

Monday, October 5 – World War I & Self-Determination of Nations

Wednesday, October 7 – *Reading: Excerpts from The Wilsonian Moment; Ghandi's "An Appeal to the Nation" (course packet); PAPER #2 DUE*

Monday, October 12 – FALL BREAK, No Class

Wednesday, October 14 – NO CLASS

Monday, October 19 – World War II, the Holocaust, and Declaring Human Rights

Wednesday, October 21 – *Reading: Excerpts from Night, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (course packet)*

Monday, October 26 – Genocide around the world

Wednesday, October 28 – *Reading: Excerpts from A Problem from Hell (course packet)*; PAPER #3 DUE

Monday, November 2 – The Civil Rights Movement

Wednesday, November 4 – *Reading: SNCC Statement of Purpose; LBJ Voting Rights Speech; The Long Civil Rights Movement (course packet)*

Monday, November 9 – Second Wave Feminism and International Women’s Rights

Wednesday, November 11 – *Reading: The Right to Bodily Integrity, Roe v. Wade (course packet)*; PAPER #4 DUE

Monday, November 16 – The American Indian Movement

Wednesday, November 18 – *Reading: Excerpts from Lakota Woman, Ojibwa Warrior (course packet)*

Monday, November 23 – Human Rights Politics
Reading: The First Right (course packet); PAPER #5 DUE

Wednesday, November 25 – THANKSGIVING BREAK, No Class

Monday, November 30 – LGBTQ Rights & Human Rights at the end of the 20th Century
Reading: The Rejection of Human Rights Framings: The Case of LGBT Advocacy in the U.S. (course packet)

Friday, December 4 – FINAL EXAM, 3:30 – 6:30