

# HIS 210: Human Rights in Modern World History

Classroom MHRA 1215

Meeting Times: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 12:00-12:50

## Instructor Information:

**Professor Mark Elliott**

**[Links to an external site.](#)[Links to an external site.](#)**

Faculty webpage: <https://his.uncg.edu/faculty/elliott.html> ([Links to an external site.](#))

E-mail: [mark.elliott@uncg.edu](mailto:mark.elliott@uncg.edu) or [me Elliot@uncg.edu](mailto:me Elliot@uncg.edu)

Office: 2125 MHRA

Office Hours: Tues 2:00-4:00 or by appointment

Teaching Assistant: **Patrick Kellam**

E-mail: [jpkellam@uncg.edu](mailto:jpkellam@uncg.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:30pm-1:30pm, Fridays 10:30am-11:30am

Teaching Assistant: **Johneta Devoe**

E-mail: [jsdevoe@uncg.edu](mailto:jsdevoe@uncg.edu)

Office Hours:

## History Department Social Media:

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/uncghistory1/>[Links to an external site.](#)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UNCGDepartmentofHistory>[Links to an external site.](#)

Website: <https://his.uncg.edu/>[Links to an external site.](#)

YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCmAM-qlz-IVzKR\\_YmoHq4A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCmAM-qlz-IVzKR_YmoHq4A)[Links to an external site.](#)

## Course Description

This course provides a conceptual and historical introduction to the concept of human rights, surveying major developments in the advocacy of human rights since the Enlightenment. Focusing on a selection of important events, historical figures, and international issues of global significance, this course explores human rights issues in

international law, transnational movements, and global causes. Because of its broad sweep, the variety of topics covered in this course make no claim to be comprehensive. No single course can examine all of the important topics that relate to human rights over two hundred and fifty years.

One of the major themes of this class will be the dialectic between the human capacity for brutality and the desire for world peace and happiness. Human rights initiatives have arisen nearly always in response to atrocities of shocking magnitude. Torture, slavery, genocide, imperialism and war are the historical counterparts of human rights activism and the development of institutions dedicated to preventing violations of human rights.

Understanding the proliferation of such atrocities is essential to the understanding of the efforts to forge national constitutions, international treaties and governing bodies to restrain peoples from engaging in genocidal actions, crimes against humanity, and violations of human rights. The concept of “human rights” has not remained static over time; it has been a contested idea that remains at the source of debate and disagreement among its advocates as well as its detractors. Placing the debates and uses of “human rights” in historical context will be the main endeavor of this course.

In addition, this course serves as an introduction to historical thinking and to world history as a methodology. Studying world history is about understanding the interconnectedness of ideas and events that cross national borders and thinking comparatively about developments around the globe. Students will be trained to think as historians by analyzing evidence and learning to ask questions that help them to understand the historical context of the evidence. Students will learn to analyze different types of evidence and make arguments based on such evidence. Primary and secondary sources will be studied as sources for historical understanding. It is hoped that the material explored in this course will provide students with a springboard to further study in history in upper-level courses.

## **MAC Global Engagement (C9) Competency**

Courses in this competency provide students with knowledge and critical understanding of similarities and differences across world cultures over time and emphasize the development of global perspectives and skills to engage cross-culturally.

Upon successful completion of this global engagement and intercultural learning through the humanities and fine arts OR through the social & behavioral sciences course, students will:

1. Describe dynamic elements of different cultures.
2. Explain how similarities, differences, and connections among different groups of people or global systems affect one another over time and place.

# Additional Course Objectives

- Students will think comparatively how the concept of “human rights” has impacted different nations, cultures, and peoples
- Students will analyze interconnections between different parts of the globe
- Students will examine the role of human agency in historical change
- Students will learn how to historically contextualize and analyze a range of primary sources representing different points of view
- Students will use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently
- 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 experience
- Students will improve their reading, writing, and online communication skills

## Accessibility:

It is the University’s goal that all learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. For students with recognized disabilities, please see the resources below. Students must be able to access Canvas. **You will require a computer and online access.**

## Students with Disabilities

Students with recognized disabilities should register promptly 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/> ([Links to an external site.](#)). 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. Students who have concerns about accessing any of the course material should contact OARS for assistance or let the professor know immediately.

## Health and Well-Being Statement

Health and well-being impact learning and academic success. Throughout your time in the university, you may experience a range of concerns that can cause barriers to your academic success. These might include illnesses, strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol or drug problems, feeling down, or loss of motivation. Student Health Services and The Counseling Center can help with these or other issues you may experience. You can learn about the free, confidential mental health services available on campus by calling [336-334-5874](tel:336-334-5874), visiting the website at <https://shs.uncg.edu/Links to an external site.> or visiting the Anna M. Gove Student Health Center at 107 Gray

Drive. For undergraduate or graduate students in recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction, The Spartan Recovery Program (SRP) offers recovery support services. You can learn more about recovery and recovery support services by visiting <https://shs.uncg.edu/srp>[Links to an external site.](#) or reaching out to [recovery@uncg.edu](mailto:recovery@uncg.edu)

## 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 through Canvas so that the "Turnitin" function will scan your paper for plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense of academic dishonesty that involves taking the work of another person and misrepresenting it as your own. Each student should be familiar with the Academic Integrity Policy, and UNCG's policies regarding [plagiarism](#)[Links to an external site.](#). Refer to this address on the UNCG website for more details and definitions:

[UNCG Academic Integrity Policies](#)

## Attendance

Attendance is required for this class. There are no excused or unexcused absences (please no doctor's notes). Every student has 4 "sick days" to cover emergencies of any kind. After missing 4 classes, each additional missed class will impact the student's overall grade by deducting 15 points off their total points for the class. Students should use their 4 unpenalized absences wisely and save them for true necessities so that excessive absences do not accrue and impact their final grade.

## Assignments:

**Film Choice:** Early in the semester, you will be asked to choose one of the films listed on the under the "Pages" link on the left which will become the basis for further research and a paper.

**Film Analysis Sources:** In order to assess the historical validity and value of a film, it is important to conduct some research. You will be required to collect some sources from the Jackson Library for your film analysis.

**Film Analysis Paper:** You will write an historical film analysis paper of 1200-1500 words in length. You will choose a feature film to write about which can be access through the "Pages" button on the left side of the Canvas homepage. Details about this assignment will be given on Canvas. Late papers will be marked down 10 points for each day they are late.

**Tests:** There will be three cumulative tests on the readings, lectures, and videos required during that portion of the semester.

**Quizzes and Discussion Posts:** Most weeks will include either a quiz or a required Canvas discussion about the reading with a select group of students from your section.

***Grading Breakdown:***

70 Points: Class Participation in Discussion Sections

120 Points: Quizzes and Discussion Board Posts

100 Points: Term Paper

10 Points: Term Paper Topic

50 Points: Term Paper Sources

50 Points: First Exam

50 Points: Second Exam

50 Points: Final Exam

Negative Points: -15 Points for each unexcused absence over 4.

Extra Credit: +15 for each Extra Credit Assignment

**Final Grade Scale:** A 465-500; A- 450-464; B+ 435-449; B 415-434; B- 400-414; C+ 385-399; C 365-384; C- 350-364; D+ 335-349; D 315-334; D- 300-314; F 0-299.

## **Elasticity Statement:**

This syllabus is subject to change according to circumstances and the needs of the instructor. Students will be notified of any important change made after the semester begins.