

Human Rights and Justice - CRIM 308 DL3

Asynchronous online course

Student/Office hours: Online on Tuesdays from 1:30 pm to 2:00 pm, or by appointment

About the Instructor

I am term assistant professor of criminology, law and society at George Mason University. My research is primarily on the death penalty, human rights, and comparative law. I have an M.Sc. in African Politics (London), a J.D. (Boston), and a Ph.D. in law (Middlesex). I am licensed to practice law in New York and Washington, DC.

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Course materials

This course has one text book: *Jo Becker, Campaigning for Justice: Human Rights Advocacy in Practice* (Stanford 2013). The University subscribes to the textbook, so you may access the online version for free through the library website (library.gmu.edu). All other readings, handouts, and course materials will be posted on Blackboard.

Grading scale for the class

I will not use the grades “D+” or “D-.”

98-100 A+

93-97 A

90-92 A-

88-89 B+

83-87 B

80-82 B-

78-79 C+

73-77 C

70-72 C-

60-69 D

<60 F

In addition, in the event that I must calculate grade fractions, I will always round up to the next highest point if you have a 0.45 or higher.

Grading rubric

Your grade in this class is based on a cumulative point total.

12 Weekly Quizzes (15 points each): 180 points

12 Writing/Editing/Research Assignments (6 points each): 72 points

24 Weekly Workshops (2 points each): 48 points

Total: 300 points (25 points available each week for 12 weeks)

Attendance at our live introduction class will count as 2 points extra credit

Late Policy

You must take 12 weekly quizzes, 12 assignments, and 24 workshops this semester. These are not timed and do not need to be completed in one sitting. Therefore, ordinarily no extensions will be given. If you are unable to complete a quiz by the deadline, you must notify me within 48 hours. Once I reveal the answers to the class, you will not be able to take the quiz. It is within my discretion to allow you to take a portion of the quiz for partial credit.

Course schedule

Lectures, readings, online assignments, quizzes, and workshops each week are available on Blackboard.

Wednesday, August 26: Introductory class

Wednesday, September 2: United Nations I (Quiz 1 due at 4:30 pm)

Wednesday, September 9: United Nations II (Quiz 2 due at 4:30 pm)

Wednesday, September 16: European Human Rights System (Quiz 3 due at 4:30 pm)

Wednesday, September 23: African and Inter-American Systems (Quiz 4 due at 4:30 pm)

Wednesday, September 30: Equality and Civil and Political Rights (Quiz 5 due at 4:30 pm)

Wednesday, October 7: Freedom of Expression (Quiz 6 due at 4:30 pm)

Wednesday, October 14: Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (Quiz 7 due at 4:30 pm)

Wednesday, October 21: Human Rights Forensics (Quiz 8 due at 4:30 pm)

Wednesday, October 28: Business and Human Rights (Quiz 9 due at 4:30 pm)

No class November 4 because of Election Day

Wednesday, November 11: Humanitarian Law/Laws of War (Quiz 10 due at 4:30 pm)

Wednesday, November 18: Sports and Human Rights (Quiz 11 due at 4:30 pm)

No class on November 25 due to Thanksgiving break

Wednesday, December 2: Sustainability/Climate Change and Human Rights (Quiz 12 due at 4:30 pm)

Honor Code

Sharing of instructor-created materials, particularly materials relevant to assignments or exams, to public online “study” sites is considered a violation of Mason’s Honor Code. For more information, see the Office of Academic Integrity’s summary of information about online study sites.

The integrity of the University community is affected by the individual choices made by each of us. Mason has an Honor Code with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Three fundamental and rather simple principles to follow at all times are that: (1) all work submitted be your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification.

For the full Honor Code, see academicintegrity.gmu.edu.

Disability Accommodations

If you have a documented learning disability or other condition that may affect academic performance you should (1) make sure this documentation is on file with Office for Disability Services (SUB I, Rm. 4205; 993-2474; <http://ods.gmu.edu>) to determine the accommodations you need; and (2) talk with me to discuss your accommodation needs. I want to be helpful.

Diversity/Inclusion

As a faculty member and designated “Responsible Employee,” I am required to report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per university policy 1412. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact the Student Support and Advocacy Center (703-380-1434) or Counseling and Psychological Services (703-993-2380). You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator (703-993-8730; titleix@gmu.edu).

This course seeks to create a learning environment that fosters respect for people across identities. We welcome and value individuals and their differences, including gender expression and identity, race, economic status, sex, sexuality, ethnicity, national origin, first language, religion, age and ability. We encourage all members of the learning environment to engage with the material personally, but to also be open to exploring and learning from experiences different than their own.