

Human Rights and Justice - CRIM 308 – SUMMER 2021

Online asynchronous course (work due 11:59 pm each Tuesday night)

Office hours: 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.

Email: anovak2@gmu.edu

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 your fraction of a cumulative point total:

7 weekly quizzes (20 points each) = 140 points

7 weekly assignments (6 points each) = 42 points

14 weekly workshops (2 points each) = 28 points

Total = 210 points

Course schedule

Tuesday, June 1, 2020: Course opens

Tuesday, June 8, 2020: United Nations (Quiz 1 and introductory survey due at 11:59 pm)

Tuesday, June 15, 2020: Regional Human Rights Regimes (Quiz 2 and short editing assignment due at 11:59 pm)

Tuesday, June 22, 2020: Civil and Political Rights (Quiz 3 and legal brief assignment due at 11:59 pm)

Tuesday, June 29, 2020: Free Expression and Refugees (Quiz 4 and memorandum assignment due at 11:59 pm)

Tuesday, July 6, 2020: Humanitarian Law and Transitional Justice (Quiz 5 and critical HR discussion board due at 11:59 pm)

Tuesday, July 13, 2020: Business, Sport, and Human Rights (Quiz 6 and document-based assignment due at 11:59 pm)

Tuesday, July 20, 2020: Environmental and Economic/Social/Cultural Rights (Quiz 7 and human rights cites blog post due at 11:59 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 “Non-Confidential Employee” (previously a “Responsible Employee”) under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 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.