

Summer 2022

Human Rights and Justice - CRIM 308 B01

Asynchronous online course

Prof. Andrew Novak

About the Instructor

I am Instructional Assistant Professor of Criminology, Law and Society at George Mason University (Instructional Associate Professor as of August 2022). 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

Student hours: By appointment

Grading Scale

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

Late Policy

You must take 7 weekly quizzes, 7 assignments, and 14 workshops this summer session. These are not timed and do not need to be completed in one sitting. If you are unable to complete a quiz by the deadline, you must notify me within 48 hours. Requests after 48 hours are at my discretion, so please do ask anyway. The sooner you ask, the more time you'll have to do the assignment.

At the end of the semester, I will provide a final deadline by which all late work must be turned in, including the weekly workshops. Typically, this will be right when I am about to calculate and upload grades. I cannot change a grade once it has been turned in, so it is essential all late work be turned in by the drop-dead deadline.

Since this class has no final paper or project other than the weekly assignments, it is not possible for me to give incompletes for late work.

Course Schedule

Lectures, readings, online assignments, and quizzes are listed on Blackboard under "Weekly Lectures and Quizzes."

Tuesday, June 7, 2022: Course opens

Week 1: Tuesday, June 14, 2022: United Nations (due at 11:59 pm)

- Reading: Stephen Hopgood, "Human Rights on the Road to Nowhere" (Part 1)
- Quiz 1 (based on lecture segments and reading) - 20 points
- Two weekly workshops (UDHR and writing skills) - 2 points each
- Introductory survey - 6 points

Week 2: Tuesday, June 21, 2022: Regional Human Rights Regimes (due at 11:59 pm)

- Reading: Stephen Hopgood, "Human Rights on the Road to Nowhere" (Part 2)
- Quiz 2 (based on lecture segments and reading) - 20 points
- Two weekly workshops (Epic Cases of the European Court and Careers) - 2 points each
- Short editing assignment - 6 points

Week 3: Tuesday, June 28, 2022: Civil and Political Rights (due at 11:59 pm)

- Reading: Kathryn Sikkink, "The Diverse Political Origins of Human Rights" (Part 1)
- Quiz 3 (based on lecture segments and reading) - 20 points
- Two weekly workshops (Equality and Measuring human rights) - 2 points each
- Legal Brief Assignment - 6 points

Week 4: Tuesday, July 5, 2022: Free Expression and Refugees (due at 11:59 pm)

- Reading: Kathryn Sikkink, "The Diverse Political Origins of Human Rights" (Part 2)
- Quiz 4 (based on lecture segments and reading) - 20 points
- Two weekly workshops (WWII Forensic science scenario and Truth commissions/apologies) - 2 points each
- Memorandum Assignment - 6 points

Week 5: Tuesday, July 12, 2022: Humanitarian Law and Transitional Justice (due at 11:59 pm)

- Reading: Stephen Hopgood, "Human Rights Empire" (Part 1)
- Quiz 5 (based on lecture segments and reading) - 20 points
- Two weekly workshops (Free expression and Child soldiers) - 2 points each
- Critical Human Rights Discussion Board - 6 points

Week 6: Tuesday, July 19, 2022: Business, Sport, and Human Rights (due at 11:59 pm)

- Reading: Stephen Hopgood, "Human Rights Empire" (Part 2)
- Quiz 6 (based on lecture segments and reading) - 20 points
- Two weekly workshops (Disability/sport and Business) - 2 points each
- Document-Based Assignment - 6 points

Week 7: Tuesday, July 26, 2022: Environmental and Economic/Social/Cultural Rights (due at 11:59 pm)

- Reading: Kathryn Sikkink, "Global Rights and Responsibilities: Climate Change and Digital Defense Against the Dark Arts" (excerpt)
- Quiz 7 (based on lecture segments and reading) - 20 points
- Two weekly workshops (ESC rights and Animal rights) - 2 points each
- Human Rights Cities Blog Post - 6 points

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.

<https://oai.gmu.edu/faculty-resource-center/preventative-resources/>

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 and 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, <http://ssac.gmu.edu>) or Counseling and Psychological Services (703-993-2380, <https://caps.gmu.edu/>). You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator (703-993-8730; titleix@gmu.edu, <https://diversity.gmu.edu/sexual-misconduct>).

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.