

Preliminary Syllabus for Human Rights and National Security – Fall 2017

INR 3932 sections 5 & 6 (multi-listed with INR 5936 section 2)

Monday 5:15 PM – 8:00 PM

HCB 0216

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Introduction

This course surveys the extent to which there may be tensions between human rights interests and national security imperatives placing a particular emphasis upon the period since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks but not limited to this period. A three-credit course, students will explore aspects of U.S. law, international law, and other humanitarian considerations relevant to what initially was known as the U.S.-led “Global War On Terror.” The mantra for this course will be challenge all givens, in an effort to promote critical thinking while attempting to disabuse various simple narratives toward that end.

The following two textbooks are required for both undergraduate and graduate students, and a third (below) is required for graduate and honors students only:

Not a Suicide Pact: The Constitution in a Time of National Emergency, Richard A. Posner, Oxford University Press (2006)

The Dark Side, Jane Mayer, Anchor Books (2009)

Required for graduate and honors students only:

The Terror Courts: Rough Justice at Guantanamo Bay, Jess Bravin, Yale University Press (2013)

*Additional readings will be posted periodically.

In addition to studying relevant domestic and international law, students will participate in class simulations involving a number of the international and national venues in which issues regarding human rights and national security are currently being examined. Participating in teams, students will explore the array of underlying issues and priorities, and respond to other teams’ positions. Student participation in this exercise will count toward the overall class participation grade.

Grading

Students in this course will be graded for class participation (including team assignments), a writing component – undergraduates will have a midterm and a final exam; honors and graduate students will have a final exam. All students are expected to be prepared to engage in classroom discussions and in-class exercises.

An attendance sheet will be circulated during each class for your signature - it is every student’s responsibility to sign the attendance sheet to verify attendance. **Students must not sign the attendance sheet for their fellow classmates in that doing so may constitute an honor code violation.** Students are expected to be on time for class. But for reaching an understanding with me, students who are consistently late for class may be subject to a reduction in overall course grade. Students may miss two classes without explanation or justification; all other absences must be excused. Students who are not prepared for class may be considered absent. Students who miss more than two classes may be subject to a reduction in their final

course grades by two points for every additional absence or, at the discretion of the instructor in consultation with INR, may be administratively dis-enrolled from the course.

Grade components

Class Attendance and Participation (including "Daily Briefs")	15%
Policy Paper	30%
*Reflection Paper for grad and honors students	incorporated
Group Exercise and Presentation	20%
Final Exam	35%

Policy Paper (all students)

Students have broad discretion to select a topic so long as they can reasonably frame within the purview of this course. Toward this end, all students should avail themselves of the opportunity to identify their proposed topics prior to completing their papers.

Papers must be printed on 8.5" x 11" white paper. A title page is required, containing the title of your paper, your name, and the date. Text is to be double spaced, using 11 or 12 point font, with footnotes or endnotes as appropriate. Pages must be numbered.

Requirements for the final policy paper will vary depending upon the section of this course for which you are registered; however, all should generally conform to the policy paper guidelines distributed in class and posted on Blackboard, e.g. the target length for grad and honors students is 8 pages, while the target length for undergraduate students is 10 pages.

Reflections Paper (grad & honors students)

*Additional information will be provided during supplemental session TBD

***AUG 28- Course parameters and preliminary topical overview: refugee protection issues**

***SEP 05 – read first three chapters of The Dark Side**

Note: The following resources will be posted:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- International Covenant on Civil & Political Rights
- U.N. Convention Against Torture
- Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions
- Article 4 of the Geneva Conventions
- International Criminal Court Fact sheet

***Reflection Papers (grad and honors students) will be due to coincide with final exam.**

Note: Class reading and exercise assignments, as well as other aspects of the course requirements are subject to change.