

## **Preliminary Syllabus for Human Rights & National Security – Fall 2018**

INR 3932 sections 4 & 5 (multi-listed with INR 5936 section 2)

**Monday 5:15 PM – 8:00 PM**

**HCB 0216**

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**Office hours: By appointment**

### **Introduction**

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

The following two books are required for both undergraduate (including Honors) 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)

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Required for graduate and honors students only w/reflection paper TBD:

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

\*Additional readings will be assigned/posted periodically.

In addition to studying relevant domestic and international law, students will participate in class exercises involving a number of 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 sometimes competing priorities, and respond to other teams’ positions. Student participation in this exercise will apply toward the overall class participation grade.

### **Grading**

Students grades in this course will be weighted for class participation (including team assignments), a writing component (a policy paper and various one page reflection papers) – undergraduates may 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 the instructor, 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 or again may be subject to a reduction in overall course grade to the extent that such may be reduced 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

		Notional for undergrads:
*Class Attendance and Participation (including "Daily Briefs")	15%	15%
*Policy Paper	30%	20%
*Reflection Paper for grad and honors students *incorporated		
*Group Exercise and Presentation	20%	20%
*Midterm Exam		20%
*Final Exam	35%	25%

#### **Policy Paper (all students)**

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

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

**\*AUG 27- Course parameters and preliminary topical overview**

**\*SEP 10 – 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

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