

POL SCI 3Y03 DEMOCRATIZATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Winter 2021

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Lecture: Monday 3:30 pm–5:20 pm

Room: Virtual Zoom Classroom
Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30-3:00 pm by
Zoom Appointments

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Course Description

The course examines the meanings and interpretations of commonplace notions such as democracy, democratic politics, democratic transition, and liberalism and their complex relationship to an evolving universal human rights culture. It reviews conventional views on the origins, nature, and scope of Western liberal democratic political regimes, as well as Western claims on the universality of human rights. It also discusses double standard approaches used by Western democracies in the ‘measurement’ of non-Western regimes’ commitment to democracy and human rights. It challenges the latter’s claims that democracy and human rights ought to be rejected as a Western phenomenon inimical to their ‘own cultures’. The discussion on democratic governance and human rights addresses philosophical, political, economic, and historical perspectives, from religious and natural law arguments to rational, scientific, and analytical approaches. The course assesses *inter alia* an expanding theoretical body on democracy and human rights; a burgeoning international bureaucracy; democracy, human rights, and capitalism; the ‘naturalization’ of torture; new instances of genocide; indigenous peoples’ persistent oppression, and ‘new’ incomplete forms of justice in post-conflict societies.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course it is expected that students will be able to:

- Critically re-examine Western views about democracy and respect for human rights in Western and non-Western contexts
- Critically assess non-democratic regimes’ pseudo rationalizations of human rights
- Critically evaluate the role of international human rights organizations
- Critically assess the current political atmosphere and the corresponding weakening of a democratic and human rights culture

Required Materials and Texts

The following textbook was ordered through the McMaster University Bookstore: Goodhart, Michael (2016), *Human Rights. Politics and Practice*. Third edition. Oxford University Press: New York. An electronic copy is available as well from Oxford University Press. In addition, the following journals are available online and can be downloaded through the McMaster Library. They can assist students in the preparation of the research paper, and in examining in greater detail some of the issues discussed in class:

[Harvard Human Rights Journal](#)

[Human Rights Law Review](#)

[Journal of Human Rights](#)

[Journal of Human Rights Practice](#)

[The International Journal of Human Rights](#)

Class Format

This is a virtual Zoom lecture course. Lectures are an important part of the learning and teaching process. Required readings provide a general background to issues discussed in class and they are complemented by the instructor's additional perspectives.

Questions pertaining to required readings are welcome in class, tutorials, and during office hours. Assignments, i.e. research paper and examinations must reflect familiarity with readings, and class and tutorial discussions. Relevant films may be shown in class.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Research Paper worth 50 % (10 % + 40 %)
2. End-of-Term Take-Home Examination worth 40 %
3. Tutorial participation worth 10 %

Course Evaluation – Details

End-of-Term Take-Home Examination (Worth 40 % of Course Grade)

This take-home examination will be posted on Avenue to Learn on April 5, 2021. The exam must be returned electronically on April 6, 2021 by 10:00 pm. and addressed to both gallegui@mcmaster.ca and the corresponding Teaching Assistant. All required readings and class and tutorial discussions must be used in answering the corresponding questions. No aids allowed. Examination has three parts: part 1 is worth 30 % of the exam, and it asks to identify, explain the meaning, and discuss the significance of 3 notions or concepts discussed in class and readings. Each notion is worth 10 points. Part 2 is a compulsory essay question worth 40 % of the examination. Part 3 is an essay question worth 30 % of the exam, and students are given a choice between three questions. The returned exam must include a statement that no plagiarism or improper collaboration took place in the preparation and delivery of this assignment signed electronically by the student.

Research paper (Worth 50%: 10% + 40 % of Course Grade)

This research paper is due on March 8, 2021. It must be submitted electronically and addressed to gallegui@mcmaster.ca and the corresponding Teaching Assistant. The paper should examine and discuss one of the topics listed below by using supplementary, primary and/or secondary, reading materials relevant to the argument. The essay must not be solely based on the course's required readings. This assignment has two components, and both will be reflected in the grade assigned to it. First, students must electronically submit an outline of the research that includes the research question, hypothesis or argument, evidence, causes, and preliminary bibliography by Monday, February 1, 2021 for the instructor's or teaching assistant's approval and feedback. The electronic outline must be addressed to gallegui@mcmaster.ca and the corresponding teaching assistant email address. This outline must be about three-to-four double-space typed pages. It is worth 10 % of the assignment. Next, students must submit the fully edited final version of their research paper, including all preliminary work with the

instructor's and teaching assistants' comments. Papers can be submitted early. Paper is worth 40% of the assignment.

Somewhere between 12 to 15 pages, not including title page and bibliographical references would be an adequate length for this essay. Follow the APA or the Chicago Manual of Style guidelines for the writing of academic papers. Standard use of bibliographical references is a must. The paper must be typed; have a title page; all pages numbered; lines double-spaced; and wide margins (standard word processor format) left for comments. An electronic copy of the Outline and the final paper (Word format) must be submitted to the instructor at gallegui@mcmaster.ca, and the respective teaching assistant. The outline and final paper should include a statement by the student that the paper is original, and that no plagiarism was committed in its development and production. Academic offences (plagiarism and else) will be penalized in accordance with the regulations set by the University Senate.

Topics: Choose one of the topics listed below to start the research process. They are broadly stated, open-ended suggested areas of research. Proceed by designing your own research question (main and secondary ones), and state it in question form. Follow that with a declaratory sentence that states the objectives of your research; indicate the preliminary evidence you have to support your research question; include probable causes of the problem; and add a tentative bibliography of the works you intend to use in the research. Approval and feedback from the instructor and/or teaching assistant must be obtained before embarking on the research and writing of this assignment (ref.: outline due on Monday, February 1, 2021):

1. Right-wing, conservative political regimes' record on inventing, respecting, promoting, and entrenching individual, social, cultural, and environmental human rights is poorer than liberal or left-of-centre political regimes.
2. Non-Western rulers' claims that Western standards of human rights are inimical to their societies and cultures are to be rejected as self-serving and contrary to the universality of human rights.
3. Capitalism, democracy, and human rights are irreconcilable in theory and practice.
4. Freedom of religion is freedom to practice intolerance.
5. Special interest groups' entitlement claims have diluted the universal meaning of human rights.
6. Endless wars, whether international or domestic, are the greatest threats to democracy and human rights.
7. State-sponsored terrorism is a major threat to individual and collective human

rights.

8. So-called Humanitarian Intervention by Western powers, and their Third World surrogates, is a major threat to human rights.
9. Canada's claims to be a paragon in the international human rights stage are not matched by historical and contemporary evidentiary facts.
10. The enhancement of a positive human rights culture can only come about with a forceful application of international law by independent international organizations.

Tutorial participation (Worth 10% of Course Grade)

This assignment is worth 10 % of the final course grade. It comprises (1) regular attendance, and (2) active engagement in the discussion of readings, lectures, and assignments as determined by the Teaching Assistants. Grade for this assignment is at the Instructor's discretion. No substitution assignments for missing tutorials will be arranged. Only one (1) absence will not be considered in the determination of the tutorial grade participation.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1: 11 January

Introductory remarks. Explaining the course's objectives, organization, and evaluation.

Week 2 & 3: 18 & 25 January

State of the Art in the Human Rights field: Progress and regression in the evolution of human rights and democracy seen through an examination of the two 9/11 events that shook the international community.

Required readings

Goodhart, Michael, "Introduction: Human Rights in Politics and Practice" (1-8); Chandler, David, Chapter 7: "Contemporary Critiques of Human Rights" (110-126); Landman, Todd & Larissa Kersten, Chapter 8: "Measuring and Monitoring Human Rights" (127-144).

Lecture by the instructor.

Week 4: 1 February

Conceptualizing the meaning of democracy and human rights. Are democracy and human rights complementary or oppositional? Human rights and politics.

Required readings

Cardenas, Sonia, Chapter 5: "Human Rights in Comparative Politics" (77-92); Short, Damien, Chapter 6: "Sociological and Anthropological Approaches" (93-109).

Lecture by the instructor.

Week 5: 8 February

Historical origins of Human Rights. The Magna Carta. The American and French Revolutions. The emergence of the Individual. The rise of Capitalism. The Reformation Movement. The rise of the Nation State. The consolidation of historically particularistic rights into universal rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Required readings

Langlois, Anthony, Chapter 1: “Normative and Theoretical Foundations of Human Rights” (11-27), and Fazaeli, Roja, Chapter 10: “Human Rights and Religion” (163-181).

Lecture by the instructor.

Recommended readings

Hobbes, Thomas: “On the Natural Condition of Mankind as Concerning their Felicity and Misery,” from *Leviathan* (ch.13).

Locke, John: “A Letter Concerning Toleration.”

Marx, Karl: *The Communist Manifesto*; *On the Materialist Conception of History*: see: Preface to *A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy*.

Week 6: 15-21 February. Mid-Term Recess. No Class Held this Week.

Week 7: 22 February

Expansion of democracy and human rights in the Western World: From working classes’ struggles for democracy to liberal democratic regimes to the rise and fall of the Welfare State. Capitalism, Democracy, and Human Rights: Can they be reconciled?

Required readings

Gladius, Marlies & Doutje Lettinga, Chapter 9: “Global Civil Society and Human Rights” (147-162); Richards, David & Ronald Gelleny, Chapter 13: “Economic Globalization and Human Rights” (216-234); and Davenport, Christian, Chapter 14: “Political Democracy and State Repression” (235-254).

Lecture by the instructor.

Week 8: 1 March

Democratic transitions in the post-Cold War period. The adoption of the democratic method (Joseph Schumpeter, the Pluralist School) by developing countries. The limits of conditional definitions.

Required readings

Dunne, Tim & Marianne Hanson, Chapter 3: “Human Rights in International Relations”

(44-59); and Smith, Rhona, Chapter 4: “Human Rights in International Law” (60-76).

Lecture by the instructor.

Recommended readings

Dahl, Robert (1971), *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Schumpeter, Joseph (1942), “*Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy*.”

Huntington, Samuel (1991). *The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century* (Norman, OK: The University of Oklahoma Press).

Week 9: 8 March

Development, Modernization, and Human Rights. The Fallacy of the complementarity. The Optimistic Equation. The Clash of Civilizations.

Required readings

Fukuda-Parr, Sakiko, Chapter 12: “Human Rights and Politics and Development” (198-215); Barry, John & Kerri Woods, Chapter 23: “The Environment” (405-420).

Lecture by the instructor.

Recommended readings

Huntington, Samuel (1996). *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of the World Order* (New York: NY: Simon and Shuster).

Huntington, Samuel. (1987) “The Goals of Development,” in *Understanding Political Development*, edited by Samuel Huntington and Myron Weiner (Boston: The Little, Brown and Company).

NOTE: Research paper worth 40 % of course grade due this day.

Week 10: 15 March

The end of the Cold War. New wave of democratization. Old and new conflicts and the new wave of human rights abuses.

Required readings

Strauss, Scott, Chapter 20: “Genocide and Human Rights” (351-369).

Lecture by the instructor.

Week 11: 22 March

Western Intervention: A blessing or a curse?

Required reading

Kuperman, Alan, Chapter 21: “Humanitarian Intervention” (370-388).

Lecture by the instructor.

Week 12: 29 March

Torture and other human rights abuses: a ‘peculiar’ way of promoting Western values to non-Western societies.

Required reading

Schulz, William, Chapter 15: “Torture” (255-272).

Lecture by the instructor.

Week 13: 5 April

Do Reconciliation and Truth Commissions strengthen or weaken emerging democracies?
The use of selective approaches in the punishment of human rights abuses.

Required reading

Quinn, Joanna, Chapter 22: “Transitional Justice” (389-404).

Lecture by the instructor.

NOTE: End-of-Term Take-Home Examination delivered today; due April 6 by 10:00 pm.

Week 14: 12 April

Review. Democracy and Human Rights Today. Discussion led by the Instructor.

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

Outline of Research Paper and Research Paper must be submitted electronically on February 1, 2021 and April 8, 2021, respectively. The Instructor and Teaching Assistants assume no responsibility whatsoever for assignments left under office doors, faxed, or texted (none of which is advised) or delivered in any other form than electronically. Final version of research paper must include the original outline with the teaching assistants’ and instructor’s comments. Each electronic submission (Word format) must be addressed to gallequi@mcmaster.ca, as well as the Teaching Assistant’s McMaster e-mail address. Each submission must also include the following statement on plagiarism (see above for text): *“I (name of student) attest that this work is*

original, and that no plagiarism has been committed in its preparation and delivery. (signature)”

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

Late Assignments

Late submission of Outline of research paper will be penalized with one-point deduction for each day of delay. Late submission of research paper will be penalized with one sub-letter grade deduction for each working day of delay, up to a maximum of one week (7 days from the due date). After one week, the Instructor may refuse to accept a late paper unless proper medical certification stating a prolonged inability to fulfil academic responsibilities is provided. Medical notes will be verified for authenticity. Marks for papers accepted by the Instructor after one week of lateness will be dropped by one letter grade. Students must talk to the Instructor with anticipation if they believe they will need a legitimate extension. Other courses' or work's responsibilities are not accepted as legitimate excuses. Teaching Assistants cannot grant an extension.

A make-up test for the missed end-of-term examination will be granted only for legitimate reasons, and at the Instructor's discretion. No make-up examination will be granted after two weeks from the date of the missed exam.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work".

Courses with an On-Line Element

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware

that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user-names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Online Proctoring

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software.

All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about [McMaster's use of Turnitin.com](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity) please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

Copyright and Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Conduct Expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the "Code"). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online.**

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be

taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.