

**Political Science 316, Fall 2006**

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS**

**ONLINE**

**WRITING INTENSIVE**

**(Course Record Number 78755)**

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**INTRODUCTION**

Political Science 316, International Relations: Human Rights, is an online, writing-intensive course, designed to show how the global human rights system works and fails to work. We will read, discuss, and write about a variety of specific human rights issues.

The core texts are the instructor's *Freedom from Want: The Human Right to Adequate Food* (Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2005) and Richard P. Claude and Burns H. Weston, eds., *Human Rights in the World Community: Issues and Action*, Third Edition (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006). Both texts should be available at the bookstore on the University of Hawai'i, Manoa campus, but the Claude and Weston book may not arrive until September.

This course will be taught entirely online, using email and a Yahoo! Groups website. Registered participants will get an invitation to register at the website. The website will maintain an archive of the emails we exchange among the class as a whole, and it will provide a space for uploading files.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

The written assignments are to be prepared by using Microsoft Word. They should be uploaded in the designated places on the course website. Assignments that are uploaded should have file names of the form LastnameAssgtX.doc Thus the file name for my second assignment would be KentAssgt2.doc By uploading them, participants will make all their assignments available to the entire class for review and comment.

All assignments are to be submitted by midnight, Hawai'i time, of the dates (Wednesdays) indicated in the calendar below. Online chats, held on Thursdays, generally will be devoted to discussing the just-completed assignments.

Assignments that are submitted late, but within one week of the due date, will have their grades reduced by half. Assignments will not be accepted beyond one week after the due date. Technical difficulties will not be accepted as an excuse for late submissions.

The calendar below indicates the minimum number of complete double-spaced pages for each assignment. All assignment should include a proper heading, including participant's name, date, class identification (Political Science 316), assignment number, and a centered title. Pages should be number at the bottom, in the center. Reference materials should be identified by using the author-date system, following the format used in the course texts.

Final grades for the course will be based on the total number of points earned. Cutoff levels for different grades are not determined in advance.

There are four types of written assignments—Biography, Commentaries, Chat Reports, and Article—as follows:

### ***Biography***

Participants are asked to submit autobiographies, partly to introduce themselves to each other, and partly to assure that they have figured out how to upload assignments. The autobiography should say something about the participant's background, major at the university, and interests. Participants who have special interests in human rights issues should talk about those as well.

### ***Commentaries***

Participants are to read both of the textbooks for the course and write commentaries on them. The commentaries, on specific portions of each book, are to be at least three pages long, and are to be submitted in accordance with the schedule in the course calendar. They should include three sections: Summary, My Views, and Question.

### ***Chats and Chat Reports***

We will conduct regular online chats using the conference function in Yahoo! Messenger. Participants are asked to download the software from <http://messenger.yahoo.com/> to the computer they will be using for the chats. The chats will be conducted for one hour each week, on Thursdays, 4:00-5:00 PM. Students who are unable to participate regularly at this time because of scheduling conflicts are asked to propose alternative time slots to the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Practice chats will be help for several weeks prior to the beginning of the semester so that participants can familiarize themselves with the technology.

Upon logging in to a chat, each participant should provide a question that she or he would be interested in discussing. This may be a question that had been formulated in the last commentary that had been submitted. Participants are required to participate in and submit written reports on six of the weekly online chats, but are welcome to participate in all of them. The due dates for chat reports are listed in the calendar below. These reports should include Date of the Chat, Names of Participants, Question Submitted, and Time In and Time Out, together with a Review of the Discussion. Chat reports are due by Wednesday of the week following the chat.

### ***Article***

Each participant is asked to write an article on a major human rights issue that would be suitable for submission to *Wikipedia*. *Wikipedia* is a popular on-line encyclopedia, accessible at <http://wikipedia.com> These articles are to be designed as *Featured Articles* in Wikipedia, as

described at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WP:FA> Drafts 1 and 2 and the final article are to be submitted in accordance with the schedule shown in the calendar below. The final article is to be submitted during examination week. It will serve as the final examination for the course.

The article may draw on the material provided in our course textbooks, but it must go further than that, drawing on research on the Internet and in the library. The references should show that both types of sources have been consulted.

Many human rights issues are highly contentious. The task here is not simply to choose one position and defend it. It is important to acknowledge the various positions that are taken on the issue. It is these differences that make these things *issues*. Of course, it is reasonable for you to defend a particular position after you have examined the alternative views.

### CALENDAR

<u>ASSGT NO.</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>DUE DATE</u>	<u>MIN. PAGES</u>	<u>MAX. POINTS</u>
1	Biography	Aug 23	1	10
2	Commentary on Kent, Part I	Aug 30	3	10
3	Commentary on Kent, Part II	Sep 6	3	10
4	Chat Report A	Sep 6	2	10
5	Commentary on Kent, Part III	Sep 13	3	10
6	Draft 1 of Article	Sep 20	4	10
7	Chat Report B	Sep 20	2	10
8	Commentary on Claude, Ch 1	Sep 27	3	10
9	Chat Report C	Oct 4	2	10
10	Commentary on Claude, Ch 2	Oct 11	3	10
11	Draft 2 of Article	Oct 18	7	10
12	Commentary on Claude, Ch 3	Oct 25	3	10
13	Chat Report D	Oct 25	2	10
14	Commentary on Claude, Ch 4	Nov 1	3	10
15	Commentary on Claude, Ch 5	Nov 8	3	10
16	Chat Report E	Nov 15	2	10
17	Commentary on Claude, Ch 6	Nov 23	3	10
18	Commentary on Claude, Ch 7	Nov 29	3	10
19	Chat Report F	Nov 29	2	10
20	Commentary on Ch 8 plus Postscript	Dec 6	3	10
21	COURSE EVALUATION FORM			10
22	FINAL ARTICLE DUE	Dec 13	10	10

This is the July 21, 2006 draft of this syllabus. The latest version may be accessed at <http://www2.hawaii.edu/~kent/COURSES.html>