



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
**SAN ANTONIO**

**POLS 3335: International Human Rights section 001**  
Spring 2025

**General Information**

Course & Section #	POLS 3335 - 001
Term & Years	Spring 2025
Course Schedule	Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30pm-1:45pm
Course Location	Senator Frank L Madla 254

**Instructor Information**

Name and Title	Dr. Daniel Braaten
E-mail	dbraaten@tamusa.edu
Phone Number	210-784-2276
Office Hours	Tuesday, Thursday 10:30am-12:30pm
Office Location	Central Academic Building, Office 347-C

**Course Overview**

International human rights play an increasingly important role in international politics. The modern human rights period begins with the creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, although the ideas that underlie the document extend centuries into the past. Since the end of the Cold War the prominence of international human rights has only increased and today human rights are an essential component of international politics. This course is broken down into two main sections. The first focuses on what human rights are and how they have developed over time. The second part of the course focuses on how human rights standards are enforced and adjudicated at the national and international level. Within these two sections this course will address topics such as: the early development of human rights, humanitarianism, whether human rights need a philosophical grounding, humanitarian intervention, the International Criminal Court (ICC), the UN human rights system, and the human rights policies of various states among other topics. This course will provide students with a complete understanding of the concept of human rights as well as what role human rights play in contemporary international affairs. At the completion of this course students will have a basic understanding of the normative foundations of human rights, the international law of human rights and the politics of creating and enforcing human rights standards both domestically and internationally. Students will also develop critical thinking and analytical skills, both written and oral. Finally, students will understand the important connections between international human rights and their existence as citizens in a globalized world.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course students should be able to demonstrate knowledge of the following topics

1. theories of human rights
2. the sources of international human rights
3. the main human rights institutions



4. the main actors in human rights
5. new and emerging issues in human rights

### **Required Course Materials**

Forsythe, David P. 2021. *Advanced Introduction to the Politics of International Human Rights*. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing

Additional readings on Blackboard

### **Class Requirements:**

Exams - two take home exams, which will consist of 8-10 essay questions of which you are required to answer five. Each answer will be worth 25 points for a total of 125 (250 points total)

Literature Review Paper – students will be required to write a literature review paper on a human rights related topic where they synthesize their reading of 10 academic sources and identify the prevailing view of the literature of the topic, where the gaps in the literature exist, and possibilities for future research. The paper will be 8-10 pages in length including the bibliography and is worth 100 points. Students will also be required to submit a list of sources they plan on using which is worth 25 points and an outline of their final paper which is also worth 25 points. (150 points total)

Human Rights Treaty Simulation – students are required to participate in the human rights treaty simulation. The simulation will have three phases – research, negotiation, and drafting. At each stage students will need to submit their work for grading. Each assignment will be relatively short and worth 25 points each. More information will be forthcoming when the simulation occurs (75 points)

Participation: Students are expected to attend every class, have the assigned readings completed before class begins, and participate in the class discussion. Participation grades are given out based on the discretion of the instructor (basically my perception of how much you contributed to class discussion and of course if you do not attend class you cannot participate.) (75 points)

### **Grade Breakdown**

Grade	Equivalent Points
A	90%-100%
B	80%-89%
C	70%-79%
D	60%-69%



F	Below 60%
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### **Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend every class. If a student is unable to attend class, they should notify the professor as soon as possible.

### **Electronics Policy**

Students can use laptops and/or tablets in class if they feel they are helpful for their educational experience. However, as the instructor I reserve the right to tell students to stop using them if I feel they are causing a distraction to myself or the rest of the class. I prefer that student put their phones away for the duration of the lecture portion of the class. Students must remove all headphones and/or earbuds before class begins

### **Make-Up Assignments**

I will only accept late assignments under emergency circumstances. If something prevents the student from completing the assignments on time they may be granted extra time on the assignment depending on the circumstances that prevented them from completing the assignments on time. Students must contact the instructor immediately if they are unable to complete the assignments on time. The same applies to exams. If a student is unable to take an exam on the scheduled date they must contact the professor immediately (and preferably before the date of the exam).

### **Penalties for Academic Dishonesty**

The faculty of the Department of Arts and Sciences expects students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion- the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit, the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the College. Students are expected to do their own course work. Cheating or plagiarism by an individual student will result in a grade of F on the particular paper or in the course.

The University's policy on academic honesty and appeal procedures can be found in <http://www.tamusa.tamus.edu/undergraduate-catalog-2011.pdf>.

### **Prohibited Conduct**

All forms of prohibited conduct are outlined in the TAMU-SA student handbook. In addition, guidelines and procedures for handling instances of student misconduct are contained therein, which can be viewed on line at:

<http://www.tamusa.tamus.edu/studenthandbook.html>

Course Outline:



<b>Week</b>	<b>Topics Covered</b>	<b>Assigned Readings</b>	<b>Assignments Due</b>
<b>Foundations of Human Rights</b>			
Week 1 (1/21, 1/23)	Introduction, Theory of Human Rights	Syllabus; Beitz “Human Rights as Common Concern”; Regilme Jr. “Right to Human Dignity” (all on blackboard)	
Week 2 (1/28, 1/30)	Politics of Human Rights	Forsythe Chapter 1; Dancy and Fariss “The Global Resonance of Human Rights” (on blackboard)	
Week 3 (2/4, 2/6)	Human Rights Regime part 1 - Treaties	Universal Declaration of Human Rights; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and protocols; International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights and protocols; Genocide Convention; Convention on the Right of the Child; Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women; Convention Against Torture (all on blackboard)	
Week 4 (2/11, 2/13)	Human Rights Regime part 2 – Organizations and Norms	Forsythe Chapter 2; Terman and Búzás “A House Divided: Norm Fragmentation in the International Human Rights Regime.” (on blackboard)	References for Literature Review Paper due on 2/14 at 11:59pm on blackboard



Week 5 (2/18, 2/20)	Human Rights Treaty Simulation	No Reading Assignments	Simulation Research Assignment due on 2/21 at 11:59pm on blackboard
Week 6 (2/25, 2/27)	Human Rights Treaty Simulation	No Reading Assignments	Simulation Negotiation and Drafting Assignment due on 2/28 at 11:59pm on blackboard
Week 7 (3/4, 3/6)	Mid Term Exam	No Reading Assignments	Mid Term Exam due 3/7 at 11:59 pm on blackboard
<b>Enforcement and Adjudication of Human Rights</b>			
Week 8 (3/11, 3/13)	Spring Break	No Class	
Week 9 (3/18, 3/20)	State Foreign Policy and Human Rights	Forsythe Chapter 3; Corwin "Coercive and Catalytic Strategies for Human Rights Promotion: State Violence and Foreign Assistance." (on blackboard)	
Week 10 (3/25, 3/27)	NGOs and Human Rights	Forsythe Chapter 5; Chaudhry and Heiss "NGO repression as a predictor of worsening human rights abuses" (on blackboard)	Outline for Literature Review Paper due on 3/28 at 11:59pm on blackboard
Week 11(4/1, 4/3)	MNCs and Human Rights	Forsythe Chapter 4; Mares "Regulating transnational corporations at the United Nations" (on blackboard)	
Week 12 (4/8, 4/10)	International Courts and Human Rights	Schabas "An Introduction to the International	



		Criminal Court”; ICC indictment of Netanyahu (all on blackboard)	
Week 13 (4/15, 4/17)	Regional Courts and Human Rights	Hillebrecht “The Domestic Mechanisms of Compliance with International Human Rights Law: Case Studies from the Inter-American Human Rights System (on blackboard	
Week 14 (4/22, 4/24)	War and Human Rights	Forsythe Chapter 6; Solis “Rules of War, Laws of War (on blackboard)	
Week 15 (4/29, 5/1)	Emerging issues in Human Rights	Forsythe Chapter 7	Final Literature Review Paper due on 5/1 at 11:59pm
Week 16 ()	Final Exam Week	No Reading Assignment	Final Exam due on

## **IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES**

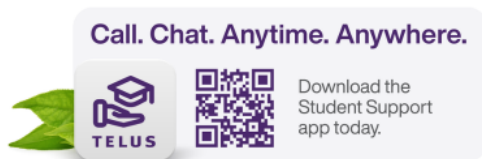
Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> or email us at [dss@tamusa.edu](mailto:dss@tamusa.edu). Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing [tutoring@tamusa.edu](mailto:tutoring@tamusa.edu), calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.



Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit [tamusa.edu/studentcounseling](http://tamusa.edu/studentcounseling). *Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2').* Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer to peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/emergency-management/>. Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.





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Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/>.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots’ Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at [military.va@tamusa.edu](mailto:military.va@tamusa.edu) or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student’s GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as “F” grades and will impact the student’s GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-





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San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator ([titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto:titleix@tamusa.edu), 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status ([titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto:titleix@tamusa.edu); 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).



Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

*Students' Rights*

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

*Students' Responsibilities*

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic



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integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>).

### **No Use of Generative AI Permitted**

GOVT 2305 assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity