

## **Human Security and International Relations: Towards the Protection of Persons?**

For decades, concern for civilians in conflict zones and refugees were treated as ancillary to “security studies,” a field which defined itself as tough minded and concerned with the “hard realities” of war and national defense. Beginning in the 1990s, a new field, “human security,” began to emerge which (loosely speaking) critically examined the human costs of war – and whether concerned global citizens might have an effect on global politics. 30 years later, human security is a well-established field – but has it made a difference in how we *think* about security and conflict? This course introduces undergraduate students to the framework and concepts of human security, as well as both traditional and contemporary critiques.

While this course analyzes human security primarily within the field of international relations, human security is a broad, interdisciplinary research program. Scholars from various critical traditions, such as gender studies and postcolonialism, are both contributors to and critics of human security. For their final projects, students will be encouraged to draw on materials from multiple fields to engage their topics.

Course expectations: students will be evaluated through in-class participation, online discussion groups, written assignments, and an oral presentation. The final project, an academic style paper between 8 and 12 pages long, will constitute 50% of the final grade. Students will develop a research topic in consultation with the instructor. Students will write a succinct (2-3 page) policy brief in the style of an NGO, UN, or think tank report (due week 6), and will make 5 minute presentations in either week 7 or week 8. The policy brief and presentation together will count for 25% of the final grade. Finally, in-class participation and online discussion groups will count for 25% of the final grade.

### **Part 1: Does Human Security have a Place in International Relations?**

**Week 1:** Introducing Human Security...and its critics

Roland Paris, “Human Security: Paradigm Shift or Hot Air?”

Keck and Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics*, chapters 1 and 2

Michael C. Desch, “It is kind to be cruel: the humanity of American Realism”

**Week 2:** Human Security as International Relations: constructivist and realist approaches

Barnett and Finnemore, *Rules for the World* chapters 1 and 2

Robert Pape, “When Duty Calls: a Pragmatic Standard for Humanitarian Intervention”

### **Part 2: Human Rights as a Framework of Analysis, Human Rights as an Organizing Tool of Activists**

**Week 3:** The “Spiral Model” of Human Rights

Thomas Risse and Stephen C. Ropp, “Introduction and Overview” (chapter 1) in *The Persistent Power of Human Rights*

Anja Jetschke and Andrea Liese, “The power of human rights a decade after: from euphoria to contestation?” (chapter 2) in *The Persistent Power of Human Rights*

Tanja Borzel and Thomas Risse, "Human rights in areas of limited statehood: the new agenda" (chapter 4) in *The Persistent Power of Human Rights*

**Week 4:** Human Rights and International Law – more than lip service?

James Morrow, "When do States Comply with the Laws of War?"

Helen Kinsella, "Discourses of Difference: civilians, combatants, and compliance with the laws of war"

Kathryn Sikkink, "The United States and Torture: does the spiral model work?" (chapter 8) in *The Persistent Power of Human Rights*

**Week 5:** Should we pursue Individual Accountability for Human Rights Abuses in World Politics?

Historical origins

Kathryn Sikkink, *The Justice Cascade* chapters 1 and 2

Glenn Mitoma, "Charles H. Malik and Human Rights: Notes on a Biography"

**Week 6:** Should we pursue Individual Accountability for Human Rights Abuses in World Politics?

Implementing a new norm

Kathryn Sikkink, *The Justice Cascade* chapters 3 and 4

Amitav Acharya, "How Ideas Spread: Whose Norms Matter? Norm Localization and Institutional Change in Asian Regionalism"

**Policy Brief (first paper) due**

### **Part 3: The Humanitarian Paradigm**

**Week 7:** Humanitarianism in global politics: historical origins and the idea of humanitarian intervention

Michael Barnett, *Empire of Humanity*, chapters 1—4

Fernando R. Teson, "Humanitarian Intervention as Defense of Persons" and "Just Cause in Humanitarian Intervention"

**Policy Brief (presentation) in-class (sign up sheet will be circulated in advance)**

**Week 8:** Humanitarianism in global politics: politics or anti-politics?

Michael Barnett, *Empire of Humanity*, chapters 5—8

Mahmood Mamdani, *Saviors and Survivors: Darfur, Politics, and the War on Terror* chapter 2

Alan Kuperman, "The Moral Hazard of Humanitarian Intervention"

**Policy Brief (presentation) in-class (sign up sheet will be circulated in advance)**

### **Part 4: Vulnerable by definition? Women, Refugees, and Internally Displaced Persons**

**Week 9:** Gendered Security

Helena Carreiras, "Gendered Culture in Peacekeeping Operations"

Jenna Norosky and Charli Carpenter, "Why Ukraine's Men-Only Travel Ban is Inconsistent with International Law: Gender Equality, Freedom of Movement and the Right of Civilians to Flee the Dangers of War"

Mary Caprioli, "Democracy and Human Rights versus Women's Security: a Contradiction?"

Aisling Swaine, "At Odds? Human Rights and Humanitarian Approaches to Violence Against Women During Conflict" in *Humanitarianism and Human Rights: A World of Difference?*

**Week 10:** Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons

Francis Deng and Roberta Cohen, *Masses in Flight* chapter 1

Emma Haddad, *The Refugee in Global Society* chapter 5

Phil Orchard, "Protecting IDPs: Soft Law as a Norm-Generating Mechanism"

Barnett and Finnemore, *Rules for the World*, chapter 4

**Week 11:** The Responsibility to Protect: human security or power-politics-as-usual?

Ramesh Thakur, "The Responsibility to Protect at 15"

Mahmood Mamdani, "Responsibility to Protect or Right to Punish?"

Gabriel Mares, "Recovering African contestation and innovation in global politics: Francis Deng and sovereignty-as-responsibility"

### **Part 5: Critiquing Human Security, or Critiquing Flawed Actors?**

**Week 12:** When is it genocide, and when is it just "a lot of people dying"?

Barnett and Finnemore, *Rules for the World* Chapter 5

Benjamin Meiches, *The Politics of Annihilation: A Genealogy of Genocide* part 1

**Week 13:** When is it genocide, and when is it just "a lot of people dying"?

Benjamin Meiches, *The Politics of Annihilation: A Genealogy of Genocide* part 2

Aung San Suu Kyi, speech to the International Court of Justice, December 2019

**Week 14:** When the mission is the problem: Human Security critiques the UN and Humanitarian NGOs

Pillinger, Hurd, and Barnett, "How to get away with cholera: The UN, Haiti, and International Law"

Nicola Pratt, "Reconceptualizing Gender, Reinscribing Racial-Sexual Boundaries in International Security: The Case of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on 'Women, Peace, and Security'"

Charli Carpenter, "'Women and Children First': Gender, Norms, and Humanitarian Evacuation in the Balkans 1991-1995"

**Final papers due Wednesday of finals week**