

Professor Gershon Shafir
Classes: Monday 5:00-8:00pm
Classroom: SSB1

Winter 2025
Office Hours: Monday 3:00-5:00pm

SOC174 (HMNR 100): Introduction to Human Rights and Global Justice

In this course, we will explore the origins and meanings of human rights by situating them within the history of modern society. We will trace the development of the contemporary human rights regime and take a closer look at a wide array of rights -- from the right to life, liberty and freedom of expression, through economic and political rights, to women's and refugees' rights.

Course Requirements:

- I. Attendance (20%),
- II. Assignments (2 x 20%):
 - (a) A three-page paper written in the style of a Human Rights Watch report, analyzing a specific human rights violation anywhere in the world with recommendations for remedies,
 - (b) A five-minute video interview project on a similar topic featuring:
 - i. An author of a manifesto/charter or op/ed, or
 - ii. An expert on the "TV Channel: Debating Rights and Wrongs."
- III. A human rights campaign PowerPoint presentation (40%).

Required readings:

Lauren, Paul Gordon, *The Evolution of International Human Rights: Visions Seen*, Third edition, Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt46nqdn>

Donnelly, Jack, *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice*, Third edition, Ithaca, Cornell University Press, 2013, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7591/j.ctt1xx5q2>

Brysk, Alison, *Speaking Rights to Power: Constructing Political Will*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2013.

You should have read and thought about the course readings by the dates indicated. Readings are available on reserve at Geisel Library, and the textbooks can be purchased at the UCSD Bookstore.

WEEK 1: January 8

What Are Human Rights?

Donnelly, "Introduction," pp. 1-3 & Ch. 1, "The Concept of Human Rights," pp. 1-17. & Ch. 4, "Equal Concern and Respect," pp. 55-60.

Human Rights Watch, *Cuba: Prominent Figures Urge End to Repression of Artists*, Human Rights Watch, December 8, 2021, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/12/08/cuba-prominent-figures-urge-end-repression-artists>

Barr, Heather, "You Should Be Worrying about the Woman Shortage," Human Rights Watch, December 4, 2018, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/12/04/you-should-be-worrying-about-woman-shortage>

Brysk, Alison, Introduction & Ch. 1, "Speaking Rights," pp. 1-40.

Becker, Jo, Chapter 1: "Campaigning to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers," pp. 11-31, in *Campaigning for Justice: Human Rights Advocacy in Practice*, Stanford, Stanford University Press, 2013.

WEEK 2:

The Early History of Human Rights

Lauren, Ch. 2, "To Protect Humanity and Defend Justice: Early International Efforts," pp. 43-78.

Donnelly, Ch. 5, "A Brief History of Human Rights," pp. 75-92.

Shafir, Gershon, "Citizenship and Human Rights in an Era of Globalization," in Alison Brysk & Gershon Shafir eds., *People out of Place: Globalization, Human Rights, and the Citizenship Gap*, N.Y., Routledge, 2004, pp. 11- 25.

Hebrew Bible, The Ten Commandments,
<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-ten-commandments>

Hitchens, Christopher & Jacques del Conte, "The New Commandments
The Ten Commandments Were Set in Stone, But it May be Time for a Re-chisel. With All due Humility, the Author Takes on the Job, Pruning the Ethically Dubious,

Challenging the Impossible, and Rectifying some Serious Omissions,” *Vanity Fair*, March 4, 2010, <https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2010/04/hitchens-201004>

Le Miere, Jason, “Majority of U.S. Muslims Now Support Gay Marriage, While White Evangelical Christians Remain Opposed,” *Newsweek*, May 1, 2018, <https://www.newsweek.com/muslim-white-evangelical-gay-marriage-907627>

Brahimi, Amel, “A Quiet Revolution: The Female Imams Taking Over an LA Mosque,” *The Guardian*, November 23, 2021, https://www.theguardian.com/global/2021/nov/22/female-imam-california-mosque?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

Brysk, Ch. 2, “Historical Repertoires: Attention Must be Paid “ pp. 41-54.

WEEK 3:

A. Toward the Modern International Approach

Lauren, Ch. 3: "Entering the Twentieth Century: Visions, War, Revolutions, and Peacemaking," pp.79-108 & Ch. 5: "A 'People's War': The Crusade of World War II," pp.137-164.

Spiller, G. ed., “Papers on Inter-Racial Problems Communicated to the First Universal Races Congress, held at the University of London, July 26-29, 1911,” Preface (v-vi); Introduction (vii-viii); and G. Spiller, "The Problem of Race Equality," pp. 29-39, P.S. King & Son, <http://www.empire.amdigital.co.uk/Documents/Details/Papers%20on%20InterRacial%20Problems>

President Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points (January 8, 1918) <https://www.britannica.com/event/Fourteen-Points>

Brysk, Ch. 3: “Voices: Heroes, Martyrs, Witnesses, and Experts,” pp. 55-77.

Becker, Jo, Chapter 5: "Creating a New International Priority: Ending Violence against Children," pp. 95-110, in her *Campaigning for Justice: Human Rights Advocacy in Practice*, Stanford, Stanford University Press, 2013.

WEEK 4:

A. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

Roosevelt, Eleanor, "The Promise of Human Rights," *Foreign Affairs*, April 1, 1948, https://www.foreignaffairs.com/united-states/promise-human-rights-eleanor-roosevelt?utm_medium=newsletters&utm_source=summer_reads&utm_campaign=summer_reads_2023&utm_content=20230702&utm_term=fa_summer

Lauren, Ch. 7 "Proclaiming a Vision: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, pp. 195-226.

Donnelly, Ch. 2, "The Universal Declaration Model," pp. 24-39.

Finnemore, Martha & Kathryn Sikkink, "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change," *International Organization*, Autumn, 1998, Vol. 52, No.4, pp. 887-917, <https://web.p.ebscohost.com/ehost/detail/detail?vid=0&sid=2a83b95d-5470-4774-9a17-dfba38567770%40redis&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWwhvc3QtGj2ZQ%3d%3d#AN=511084290&db=ssf>

B. Global Civil Society

Glasiu, Marlies & Douthett Lettinga, "Global Civil Society and Human Rights," in Michael Goodhart ed., *Human Rights: Politics and Practice, Third edition*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2016, pp. 147-162.

Quil, Lawrence, "The Final, Anguished Years of a Warrior-Scholar who Exposed Torture by U.S. Troops," *NPR*, December 2, 2021, <https://www.npr.org/2021/12/02/1060884859/the-final-anguished-years-of-a-warrior-scholar-who-exposed-torture-by-u-s-troops>

Brysk, Ch. 4: "The Message Matters: Framing the Claim," p. 78-106

WEEK 5:

A. Political Rights in Liberal Democratic Model of Human Rights:

Donnelly, Ch. 4, "Equal Concern and Respect," pp. 62-63 & Ch. 13, "Democracy," pp. 217-225.

"Japan: Chinese Authorities Harass Critics Abroad," *HRW*, October 9, 2024, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/10/09/japan-chinese-authorities-harass-critics-abroad>

Brysk, Ch. 5: "Plotting Rights: The Power of Performance," pp. 107-131.

B. Economic and Social Rights

Donnelly, Ch. 3, "Economic Rights," pp.40-45 & Chapter 13, Ch. 14, "The West and Economic and Social Rights," pp. 241-243.

President Roosevelt's "Second Bill of Rights," (excerpted)
https://www.ushistory.org/documents/economic_bill_of_rights.htm

Gramm, Phil & Mike Solon, "In Defense of Scrooge, Whose Thrift Blessed the World," *Wall Street Journal*, December 23, 2020, <https://outline.com/D4sFhe>

Cooper, Scott, "The Wall Street Journal's Indefensible Defense of Scrooge," *Left Voice*, December 25, 2020,
<https://www.leftvoice.org/the-wall-street-journals-indefensible-defense-of-scrooge/>

WEEK 6:

Brysk, Ch. 6: Mobilizing Media: Is There an App for That?" pp. 132-162.

A. Women's Rights are Human Rights

Nash, Kate, *The Political Sociology of Human Rights*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2015. Chapter 6 "Women's Rights are Human Rights," pp. 115-134.

Davidson, Helen, "Woman Awarded \$7,700 for Five Years of Housework in China Divorce Ruling," *The Guardian*, February 24, 2021,
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/feb/24/woman-awarded-7700-for-five-years-of-housework-in-china-divorce-ruling>

Agren, David, "Mexico's Supreme Court Rules Criminal Penalties for Abortion Unconstitutional," *The Guardian*, September 7, 2021,
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/sep/07/mexico-abortion-law-struck-down-supreme-court-penalties-unconstitutional?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

Recommended: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) <https://www.ohchr.org/documents/professionalinterest/cedaw.pdf>

B. Asylum: Refugees and Non-Refoulement

Loescher, Gil, "Human Rights and Forced Migration," in Michael Goodhart ed., *Human Rights: Politics and Practice, Third edition*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2016, pp. 311-330.

Hassner, Pierre, "Refugees: A Special Case for Cosmopolitan Citizenship?" in Daniele Archibugi et. al. eds., *Re-Imagining Political Community: Studies in Cosmopolitan Democracy*, Stanford, Stanford University Press, 1998, pp. 273-286.

Frelick, Bill, "Ten Harmful Trump Administration Immigration and Refugee Policies," *HRW*, February 20, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/02/20/ten-harmful-trump-administration-immigration-and-refugee-policies>

Brysk, Alison, "Contracting Rights: Regression and Resistance," in her *The Future of Human Rights*, Cambridge, Polity, 2018, pp. 68-93.

WEEK 7: Student human rights' campaign presentations

WEEK 8: Student human rights' campaign presentations

WEEK 9: Student human rights' campaign presentations

WEEK 10: Student human rights' campaign presentations