

University of Georgia
INTL 4622R: GLOBIS Human Rights Research
FALL 2020, MWF 10:20 AM – 11:10 AM
Caldwell Hall 102

Instructor: K. Chad Clay
Email: kcclay@uga.edu
Office: International Affairs Building 329 or GLOBIS @ Franklin House
Office Hours: On Zoom - Mondays, 3:00 - 5:00 PM, and by appointment

RESEARCH DESCRIPTION & STUDENT OBJECTIVES:

Human rights are crucial tools for ensuring that people live lives of dignity, allowing us “to fully develop and use our human qualities, our intelligence, our talents, and our conscience and to satisfy our spiritual and other needs” (United Nations 1987, 4). Despite this importance in the experience of daily life, human rights are poorly understood by the American public. They are rarely covered in basic, required education, and infrequently discussed in any systematic way by the media. The GLOBIS Human Rights Research Lab focuses on this gap by encouraging students to work with existing human rights research projects at GLOBIS to produce original work that analyzes and educates the public about human rights practices.

In this course, students will:

- (1) learn about human rights, international law, non-governmental organizations, education, the communication of scientific findings to the public, and the conduct of quantitative social scientific research,
- (2) learn how to conduct research both academic and practitioner settings,
- (3) have the opportunity to serve as research assistants for human rights measurement projects, such as the Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI) and the Sub-National Analysis of Repression Project (SNARP),
- (4) work on various public-facing projects, including data visualization, blog posts, and other materials,
- (5) have the opportunity to produce educational and journalistic work on human rights for a public audience,
- (6) conduct their own independent research on human rights,
- (7) present results in writing and in other communication formats, and
- (8) receive feedback from the faculty mentor on their research progress and written, oral, or digital presentation of results or key products.

REQUIRED READINGS:

A thorough literature review will be a required part of this course. Other required readings may be assigned as needed.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES & ASSIGNMENTS

Attendance, Participation, & Conscientiousness (30% of final grade)

Students participating in the lab will be expected to attend, either in-person or online, agreed upon meetings and to actively participate in and contribute to those meetings. Conscientious participation is a necessary condition for satisfactory achievement in this class.

Human Rights Data Projects (35% of final grade)

As a part of this course, you will gain experience assessing government human rights practices by working with a human rights data project. Human rights data like these are utilized by scholars and students who seek to test theories about the causes and consequences of human rights violations, as well as policy makers and analysts who seek to estimate the human rights effects of a wide variety of institutional changes and public policies. Indeed, previous data projects that I have worked on have been utilized by hundreds of governments and organizations worldwide, including the United States' Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the European Commission, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), among others. As such, your work on this project is very serious and important, with implications that go far beyond your grade in this course.

Your assignments will depend on the specific data project you are assigned and the goals of that data project during the semester. More information will be provided on this as the semester progresses.

Research Project (35% of final grade)

At the end of the course, you will turn in a research project. This project will have a significant writing component, but could also include other creative components, such as videos, podcasts, photography projects, blogs, performances, or other creative endeavors. Overall, the project should rely on existing information, as well as research that you conduct on your own, to answer a question concerning some aspect of human rights. This project will be a central focus of the course from the very beginning; thus, we will discuss it in greater detail over the duration of the semester.

MEETINGS & STUDENT TIME REQUIREMENTS

Our class will generally meet synchronously on Mondays and Wednesdays. Those that are allowed to attend in-person on a given day and choose to do so may join me Caldwell Hall 102 for those classes. Barring technological difficulties, everyone else will be expected to join over Zoom. Every Monday/Wednesday class will also be recorded over Zoom and uploaded to eLC.

Our class will generally NOT meet synchronously, either in-person or over Zoom, on Fridays. These days are set aside to watch the video lectures that talk about basics in human rights research, as well as for students to conduct independent research.

All class activity after Thanksgiving Break will be conducted online only.

The student will be expected to spend at least 12 hours per week on GLOBIS Human Rights Research Lab tasks, including time spent in meetings with the instructor and the student's own independent research.

COURSE POLICIES

1. Attendance

Physical, in-person attendance is **NOT REQUIRED** in this class. In order to accommodate social distancing during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, only about 1/2 of the class will be allowed to come to the classroom on any given day. A list splitting you into groups and letting you know which days you will be able to attend in-person, if you so desire, is available on eLC. However, each of these classes will be available synchronously on Zoom and will also be uploaded for asynchronous viewing after the class. Likewise, all exams and other assignments will be accessible online, and the class itself could be taken entirely online, if the student so desires.

2. Zoom-Capable Device & Headphones

If you choose to attend class in-person, you are **REQUIRED** to have a Zoom-capable device with you to participate, as well as headphones that you can use with that device. As our class will be split, we will have to ensure that all members of the class can communicate with one another. Your Zoom-capable device will enable you to participate in class and hear your classmates that are unable to be in the room that day.

3. Face Coverings

If you attend class, you are **REQUIRED** to wear a face covering. Effective July 15, 2020, the University of Georgia—along with all University System of Georgia (USG) institutions—requires all faculty, staff, students and visitors to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings where six feet social distancing may not always be possible. Face covering use is in addition to and is not a substitute for social distancing. Anyone not using a face covering when required will be asked to wear one or must leave the area. Reasonable accommodations may be made for those who are unable to wear a face covering for documented health reasons. Students seeking an accommodation related to face coverings should contact Disability Services at <https://drc.uga.edu/>.

4. Zoom Etiquette

Since we will be utilizing Zoom for much of our class this semester, we will need to be cognizant of the difficulties that come with that. To avoid echoes and distracting background noise, please mute yourself any time you are not the one speaking. Further, take care to wait to speak until called upon to ensure we aren't all interrupting each other and talking over one another.

5. Writing Style Rules

When writing papers for this class, you should follow these rules. Failure to do so could result in a reduction of your grade.

- All papers should be double-spaced and in 12-point font, printed on pages with 1” margins all around.
- Title pages, graphs, tables, figures, references, appendices, etc. do not count toward your paper’s length.
- You are required to use the American Political Science Association (APSA) style format for your papers. The full style guide can be found on our class’s ELC page.

6. Cell Phones and Other Noise-Making Devices

All cell phones and other devices that make noise must be turned off or put on silent/vibrate upon entering the classroom. Repeated unnecessary disruptions of class caused by such devices may negatively affect a student’s grade.

7. Academic Honesty

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University’s academic honesty policy, “A Culture of Honesty,” and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in “A Culture of Honesty” found at: www.uga.edu/honesty. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

8. Class Discussion and Debate

Political debates and discussions can become quite heated. This passion is part of what makes the study of politics fun. However, the fun ends where personal attacks and disrespect begin. All students are expected to be courteous and considerate of their classmates. Disrespectful language and personal attacks will not be tolerated.

9. Communicating with the Instructor

My primary method of communicating with you outside of class time/office hours will be thorough email. You have each been assigned an email address by the university and will be held responsible for regularly checking this account. Assignment changes, important dates, changes to the class schedule, and other valuable information will be sent to this account over the course of the semester. Please check it regularly.

I have posted office hours from 3 until 5 PM on Mondays. Given the circumstances of this semester, I will be holding these office hours over Zoom. If you would like to meet with me during office hours, simply email me, and I will send you a link and a time. If these times do not

work for you, I would be more than happy to set up an appointment at a different time during the week.

10. Staying Informed

In this course, we will often discuss current political events and issues. It is therefore important that you stay informed. Your ability to take the news of the day and view it through the lens of what you are learning will be a vital component of your success in this class. You may get your information from whatever outlet you choose. However, it is recommended that at least some of your information comes from a national news source, such as *The New York Times* (www.nytimes.com), *The Washington Post* (www.washingtonpost.com), CNN (www.cnn.com), or NPR (www.npr.org). Also, academic blogs are often great places to encounter discussions of current events through the lens of the things we are talking about in class. A few political science blogs that may be useful for this course are The Monkey Cage (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage>), The Quantitative Peace (www.quantitativepeace.com/), Political Violence @ a Glance (<http://politicalviolenceataglance.org/>), and The Duck of Minerva (<http://duckofminerva.com/>), among others.

11. Changes to the Syllabus & Other Plans

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. Further, the Lab is a different kind of class; we are not only learning together this semester, but we are working on shared projects that require us to stay in touch. As such, I reiterate the absolute necessity that you (1) stay up to date with the information on eLC and (2) check your email regularly.

ADDITIONAL UGA CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION

DawgCheck

Please perform a quick symptom check each weekday on DawgCheck—on the UGA app or website—whether you feel sick or not. It will help health providers monitor the health situation on campus: <https://dawgcheck.uga.edu/>.

What do I do if I have symptoms?

Students showing symptoms should self-isolate and schedule an appointment with the University Health Center by calling 706-542-1162 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.). Please DO NOT walk-in. For emergencies and after-hours care, see <https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>.

What do I do if I am notified that I have been exposed?

Students who learn they have been directly exposed to COVID-19 but are not showing symptoms should self-quarantine for 14 days consistent with Department of Public Health (DPH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. Please correspond with your

instructor via email, with a cc: to Student Care & Outreach at sco@uga.edu, to coordinate continuing your coursework while self-quarantined. If you develop symptoms, you should contact the University Health Center to make an appointment to be tested. You should continue to monitor your symptoms daily on DawgCheck.

How do I get a test?

Students who are demonstrating symptoms of COVID-19 should call the University Health Center. UHC is offering testing by appointment for students; appointments may be booked by calling 706-542-1162.

UGA will also be recruiting asymptomatic students to participate in surveillance tests. Students living in residence halls, Greek housing and off-campus apartment complexes are encouraged to participate.

What do I do if I test positive?

Any student with a positive COVID-19 test is required to report the test in DawgCheck and should self-isolate immediately. Students should not attend classes in-person until the isolation period is completed. Once you report the positive test through DawgCheck, UGA Student Care and Outreach will follow up with you.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources:

- If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit <https://sco.uga.edu>. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.
- UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) or crisis support (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>).
- If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center.
- Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.