Human Rights and National Security

Course Description

Introduction

Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms is the guarantee for successful provision of national security. On the domestic level, states' effective legal system and viable remedies to the populations guarantee their safety, healthy development of civil societies, and successful fulfillment of social contracts with their governments. On the international level, it means assuring that the national security is not jeopardized by outside threats, such as terrorism, inter-state and intra-state conflicts, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, large-scale migration of refugees, rogue states, genocide, and ethnic cleansing. Ultimately, human rights protection is inseparable from the notion of a truly democratic society, based on the rule and due process of law, accountability of the government to the constituencies, which minimizes the level of global conflict and nurtures global peace. The course "Human Rights and National Security" is designed to highlight important topics pertinent to protection of human rights in the contemporary security settings. From neo-institutionalism perspective, globalization brought forth cutting-cost transactions that shrunk the world further and made it easier for states and people alike to communicate and share information. This process, however, also put additional emphasis on the need for reinforced human security: human rights protection: threats to human security as well as calamities became closer to populations suffering from numerous contingencies.

Aim of the course

The main aim of the course is to create clear understanding among the students of what constitutes human rights. The course will explore why human rights and human security has become such a major player in policy, and well as an important aspect of the work that NGO's and other non-state actors conduct. Of particular importance to this course is conducting an analysis of the role of civil society (human rights NGO's, church groups, and grassroots groups). The course will feature important writings by practitioners and experts in the field.

Course objectives

The course will provide through knowledge of the contemporary human rights affairs: its birth, evolution, and contemporary issues. Special attention is given to the interplay between national security and human rights. New threats to human rights from endogenous viewpoint include abuses of fundamental freedoms of people in case of imperial collapses (such as in former Yugoslavia and Soviet Union), de-colonization (for example, in
the African context), proliferation of ethnic and low-intensity conflicts, individual terrorists and terrorist groups. On the exogenous level, internal disturbances create "butterfly effects" on their surroundings and beyond: foreign threats to security that had been previously distant in mindsets of people are now close to their neighborhoods. Trans-border and transnational migrations multiply breaches of human rights. Terrorism that was previously geographically limited is no longer contained by state borders: it infiltrates everyday lives of people raising sensitive issues of protecting the rights of the victims as well as perpetrators.

At the end of the course the students will:

• Gain the thorough knowledge and understanding of the contemporary human rights affairs: history, birth, evolution, and contemporary issues.

• Master the interconnection between human rights, democracy, and national security.

• Be able to conduct independent research on the topics of national security and human rights Course Structure

The course consists of the following Lessons:


Lesson 2: Individual, group and state rights. Rights of migrants and securitization of migration focuses on the differences between individual and group rights and, as an example, brings up the case of migrants and abuses of their rights.

Lesson 3: Rights of states vs. group rights. Self-determination vs. infallibility of state borders. Failed States and Foreign Interventions continues the discussion on individual vs. group rights from the point of view of international system of states: rights of individual states here are juxtaposed by the need to protect the rights of individuals in them and the rights of the international community to intervene.

Lesson 4: International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Laws of Armed Conflict (LOAC) presents the concept of the rights of combatants and non-combatants during military actions

Lesson 5: Genocide and ethnic cleansing: victims unspoken is dedicated to a sensitive topic of protection of the rights of the victims of genocide

Lesson 6: Terrorism and human rights analyses of the need to protect the rights of terrorist victims and the rights of terrorists themselves.

Lesson 7: Final Exam.

Assignments
During the course, the students are expected to fully participate in discussions on the above themes via answering Lesson-specific questions and preparing individual power-point presentations. Effectiveness of comprehension of the course material will be evaluated by the quality of written assignments (a midterm and a final research paper), participation in discussions and presentations.

Grading of the course consists of the following components: Assignment Percent of Grade Due Discussion Thread participation 20% There are no discussion questions for the weeks with presentations, the mid-term exam, and the final paper. Selected classes have lists of 3-4 questions, which the students are expected to cover using the Discussion Board within Blackboard. The students will be divided into groups within which they are expected to fully cover the aspects raised in the questions. The length of the responses shall not be less than 300 words.

PowerPoint Presentation 20% Due 09:00 AM CT of Friday of Lesson 3. Each student is expected to come up with a 15-20 slide presentation on the topics of weekly readings covered so far with relevant annotations to each slide. Presentations should be based on the required and suggested readings as well as any additional materials the students find appropriate.

Midterm Essay 20% Due 09:00 AM CT of Monday of Lesson 6. The length of the mid-term paper shall not exceed 2500 words. The mid-term exam is meant to evaluate understanding of the topics covered so far as well as specific terms and their applications in the field of terrorism. The students will be offered a list of six short essay questions out of which they shall choose two.

Final Essay 40% Due 09:00 AM CT of Friday of Lesson 8. The research paper should not be more than 7500 words and should include individual efforts of students to cover the issues identified during the course. The final exam is the key requirement for the course that reflects analytical efforts or the students to independently conduct social science research. The final exam paper serves as an important exercise in how to design and implement an independent analysis. The students will be offered a list of three essay questions out of which they shall chose one. Students are particularly encouraged to consult with their course instructor on the matter of using additional literature relevant for their research papers' topics. The topics for the final exam will be available in the Blackboard on Monday of Lesson 6. Angelo State University employs a letter grade system.

Grades in this course are determined on a percentage scale: A = 90 – 100 % B = 80 – 89 % C = 70 – 79 % D = 60 – 69 % F = 59 % and below.

Course Reading


Lesson 7: Final Essay

Communication Office Hours/Contacting the Instructor See the Instructor Information section for contact information.

University Policies

Academic Integrity

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the university Academic Honor Code and the ASU Student Handbook.

Accommodations for Disability

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation. Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by emailing studentservices@angelo.edu, or by contacting: Office of Student Affairs University Center, Suite 112 325-942-2047 Office 325-942-2211 FAX Student absence for religious holidays A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

Title IX at Angelo State University:

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome
behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

Online: www.angelo.edu/incident-form Face to Face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210 Phone: 325-942-2022 E-Mail: michelle.boone@angelo.edu

Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-9422171).

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State’s policy please visit: www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

Course Syllabus Statement on Required Use of Masks/Facial Coverings by Students in Class At Angelo State University

As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory Facial Covering Policy to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, in compliance with the university policy students in this class are required to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also asked to maintain safe distancing practices to the best of your ability. For the safety of everyone, any student not appropriately wearing a mask/facial covering will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. The student will be responsible to make up any missed class content or work. Continued non-compliance with the Texas Tech University System Policy may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.