INternational Human Rights: Strategies, Struggle, and the Quest for Dignity

POL 180
Summer 2016

Preliminary Syllabus

Instructor: Anupma Kulkarni

Course Schedule:

This 5-week course meets on Monday evenings from 7:00 - 8:50 pm.

* Students are encouraged though not required to attend the Stanford Human Rights lecture series and film screenings. For more information on these public programs, please visit the Continuing Studies event calendar: https://continuingstudies.stanford.edu/events/calendar

Course Grading Options:

- No Grade Requested (this is the default option).
- Credit/No Credit. If you elect this option, attendance will determine your grade.
- A letter grade. Students taking the course for a grade will be required to write a four-page paper. The parameters for this assignment will be announced in the first class meeting.

Please note: Registration is required to attend class.

Required Books and Readings:

Adam Hochschild, Bury the Chains: Prophets and Rebels in the Fight to Free an Empire's Slaves

Samantha Powers, A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide

Rebecca MacKinnon, Consent of the Networked: The Worldwide Struggle for Internet Freedom

All other required readings will be available via the course website by the first class meeting

A note about reading assignments:

Reading assignments are intended to introduce students to salient strategies and issues in the field. While doing the reading will enrich your engagement with the subject of the course and discussions, skimming some of the longer readings, is perfectly acceptable.

Week 1 (20 June 2016): Moral suasion: Civil society leads the way

Focus Case: The Campaign to End Slavery

Reading: Adam Hochschild, Bury the Chains: Profits and Rebels in the Fight to Free and Empire's Slaves.

First Assignment: Please read as much of the Hochschild book as possible (large parts can be perused and skimmed). This case is helpful to understand the origins of key human rights strategies
that are in use today, including: civil society mobilization and network formation, as well as the use of data and information, media, public dialogue, lobbying and other tactics that affect public attitudes and policy.

**WEEK 2 (27 JUNE 2016): FORGING CONSENSUS: STATES, INSTITUTION BUILDING AND NORM CREATION**

Focus Case: Eliminating the Crime of Genocide

Reading: Samantha Powers, *A Problem from Hell*. Read Preface and Chapters 1-5; parts can be skimmed.

**WEEK 3 (11 JULY 2016): COOPERATION: THE POLITICS OF PROTECTION AND COLLECTIVE ACTION PROBLEMS IN CRISES**

Focus Case: Rwandan Genocide Intervention


**WEEK 4 (18 July 2016): PURSUING ACCOUNTABILITY: TRIALS, TRUTH AND MEMORY**

Focus Case: The South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission


**WEEK 5 (25 July 2016): PRIVACY, SECURITY AND GLOBAL INFORMATION FLOW**

Focus Case: The Struggle for Internet Freedom


*Final Strategy Papers Due* (for those taking the course for a grade).