

**INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS:
STRATEGIES, STRUGGLE AND THE QUEST FOR DIGNITY**

**POL180
FALL 2017**

PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS

Instructor: Anupma Kulkarni

Course Schedule:

This 8-week course meets on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:50.

* Students are encouraged though not required to attend the Stanford Human Rights lecture series and film screenings. For more information on upcoming events, please visit the event calendar.

Course Credit and Grading Options:

- No Grade Requested (this is the default option).
- Credit/No Credit. If you elect this option, attendance will determine your grade.
- 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 during the first class meeting.

Please note: Registration is required to attend class. No auditing is permitted.

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*

Zeynep Tufekci, *Twitter and Tear Gas: The Power and Fragility of Networked Protest*

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 (28 SEPTEMBER 2017): 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 (5 OCTOBER 2017): 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 (12 OCTOBER 2017): COOPERATION: THE POLITICS OF PROTECTION AND COLLECTIVE ACTION PROBLEMS IN CRISES

Focus Case: Rwandan Genocide Intervention

Reading: Samantha Powers, *A Problem from Hell*. Read chapter on Rwanda.

WEEK 4 (19 October 2017): PURSUING ACCOUNTABILITY: TRIALS, TRUTH AND MEMORY

Focus Case: The South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Reading: Michael Ignatieff, “The Nightmare from which we are Trying to Awake” in *The Warrior’s Honor*; Antjie Krog, *Country of My Skull: Guilt, Sorrow and the Limits of Forgiveness in the New South Africa* (excerpts).

WEEK 5 (26 October 2017): PRIVACY, SECURITY AND GLOBAL INFORMATION FLOW

Focus Case: The Struggle for Internet Freedom

Reading: Rebecca MacKinnon, *Consent of the Networked: The Worldwide Struggle for Internet Freedom*. Read Introduction and Chapters 1-6.

Week 6 (2 November 2017): RIGHTS, REGULATION AND GOVERNANCE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Reading: Rebecca MacKinnon, *Consent of the Networked: The Worldwide Struggle for Internet Freedom*. Read Chapters 11-14.

Week 7 (9 November 2017): TECHNOLOGY, ORGANIZATION AND IMPACT

Focus case: Egypt and the Arab Spring

Reading: Zeynep Tufekci, *Twitter and Teargas*. “Read Part One: Making a Movement” (Chapters 1-4)

Week 8 (16 November 2017): PROTECTING RIGHTS AND MOVEMENT SUSTAINABILITY

Focus case: The Dynamics of Protest and Protection in the United States

Reading: Zeynep Tufekci, *Twitter and Teargas*. Read “Part Three: After the Protests” (Chapters 8-9)

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