

INTL 190
Fall 2018
Class: W 2:00-5:00 pm
Office Hours: W 12:00-2:00pm

Professor Gershon Shafir
Office: 494 SSB Bldg.
Robinson Building Complex 1428

Human Rights in Action

We will examine the role played by NGOs and global civil society in international human rights campaigns. We will examine in detail the campaigns to abolish slavery, torture, apartheid, and genocide, to regulate hostilities, and to endow prisoners of conscience and minorities with civil rights and women and children with civil and social rights.

Required Readings:

Michael Goodhart ed., *Human Rights: Politics and Practice*, 3rd edition, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2016.

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

Becker, Jo, *Campaigning for Justice: Human Rights & Advocacy in Practice*, Stanford, Stanford University Press, 2013.

Course Requirements: Class participation (25%); presentation in class (25%); and research paper (50%). Extra credit is available for reporting on a human rights campaign from the daily press.

Seminar paper schedule:

- (a) October 17: submit a paragraph in which you outline the (i) human right to be studied; (ii) NGO(s) under study; (iii) human rights campaign under study.
- (b) October 31: bring printed slides to consultation and explain your research project.
- (c) November 7 - December 5: (i) email your fellow students and me 1-2 readings to introduce us to your chosen NGO & campaign, one week before your presentation. (ii) Present seminar paper in seminar.
- (d) December 5: submit your revised seminar paper (students who present that day, have until the 10th to submit their paper).

Resources:

Andrew Clapham, *Human Rights: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2007.

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/pages/home.aspx> The website of the UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights provides access to all UN human rights treaties (instruments) as well as the texts of all treaty monitoring committee reports.

Kabasakal Arat, Zehra F., *Human Rights Worldwide: A Reference Handbook*, Santa Barbara, Calif., ABC-CLIO, 2006. Lists major human rights organizations and research and data sources.

Class Meetings:**October 3: Introduction: Origins, Institutions, Critiques**

Michael Goodhart, "Introduction: Human Rights in Politics and Practice," in Goodhart, pp.1-8.

Anthony J. Langois, "Normative and Theoretical Foundations of Human Rights," in Goodhart, pp.11-27.

Rhana K.M. Smith, "Human Rights in International Law," in Goodhart, pp.60-76.

Sonia Cardenas, "Human Rights in Comparative Politics," in Goodhart, pp.77-92.

Brysk, "Introduction: Rhetoric for Rights," pp.1-14.

Brysk, "Speaking Rights," pp.15-40.

October 10: Prisoners of Conscience, Global Civil Society, NGOs

Marlies Glasius & Doutje Lettinga, "Global Civil Society and Human Rights," in Goodhart, pp.147-162.

William F. Schultz, "Torture," in Goodhart, pp.255-272.

Scott Strauss, "Genocide and Human Rights," in Goodhart, pp.351-369.

Brysk, "Historical Repertoires: Attention Must be Paid," pp.41-54.

Brysk, "Voices: Heroes, Martyrs, Witnesses, and Experts," pp.55-77.

Brysk, "Audiences: Constructing Cosmopolitans," pp.163-196.

October 17: Trafficking, Women and Children's Rights

Brooke Ackerly, "Feminist and Activist Approaches to Human Rights," in Goodhart, pp.28-43.

Andrea M. Bertone, "Human Trafficking," in Goodhart, pp. 273-290.

Vanessa Pupavac, "Children's Human Rights Advocacy," in Goodhart, pp.291-310.

Becker, "Campaigning to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers," pp.11-31

Becker, "Organizing for Decent Work for Domestic Workers: The ILO Convention," pp. 32-55.

Brysk, "The Message Matters: Framing the Claims," pp.78-106.

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

October 24: Media & Lessons

Becker, "Using New Technologies in the Campaign to Free Tibet: The 2008 Beijing Olympics," pp.177-196.

Becker, "Abolishing Sentences of Life without Parole for Juvenile Offenders," pp.222-244.

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

Brysk, "Constructing Political Will: Another World is Possible," pp.197-212.

Becker, "Lessons for the Future," pp.245-259.

October 31: Consult.

November 7: Student presentations.

November 14: Student presentations.

November 21: Student presentations.

November 28: Student presentations.

December 5: Student presentations.