

IAFS 3000-002

Humanitarianism

Contact Information

Jeffrey Nonnemacher

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Office: Norlin LIBR M400M

Office Hours: Wed., 3:30 to 6:00pm or by appointment. Virtual available upon request

Course Information

August 21 – December 5

Classroom: GUGG 2

Class-time: 9:05-9:55am

Course Description: In 2012, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the European Union for its contributions to peace, democracy, and human rights in Europe. Since then, the EU's track record has come under fire and new crises have renewed debates about humanitarianism in the European Union and its spheres of influence. In this class, we are going to evaluate human rights in the context of the European Union. How did the European Union help protect human rights in former communist states? What do we learn about human rights from the European Union? How did it respond to humanitarian crises that impacted its member states? What do domestic political developments in its member states mean for the state of human rights in the EU? By the end of this course, students will be able to think critically about current discussions around human rights and humanitarian intervention in the European Union and apply these lessons beyond Europe.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Participation	10%
Weekly Quizzes	10%
Short Papers (2)	20%
Research Paper	20%
Exams (2)	40%

Letter grades will be assigned at the end of the semester based on the following scale. I will **not** round your grade, and grades will not be curved.

		B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%
A	94-100%	B	84-86%	C	74-76%	D	64-66%
A-	90-93%	B-	80-83%	C-	70-73%	D-	60-63%

Participation (10%)

Active participation in this course is critical! Coming to class well prepared and offering comments and questions in discussions will result in a superior participation grade. Attendance is mandatory. Each student gets **three** “freebie” absences that cover both excused and un-excused absences throughout the semester. Each subsequent absence will result in a decrease in the participation and attendance grade. If you have ten total absences, you will receive a 0% for this category. Twelve or more absences will result in an “F” in the course. Attendance alone is not sufficient to receive full credit. Students with perfect attendance but no participation in class should expect to receive a 60% on the participation and attendance grade.

Weekly Quizzes (10%)

Each week, there will be a quiz on that week's readings and lecture which makeup 10% of the overall course grade. There will be **twelve** quizzes in total, and the two lowest scores will be dropped. Quizzes are open-note, students get two attempts, and the highest score is kept. Quizzes

will be published on Canvas at the end of class on Friday and students will have until before class on Monday to complete each quiz.

Short Papers (20%)

Each Friday after class two prompts will be posted on Canvas that are based on course material from the prior week. Students must pick one prompt and respond with a 1000-to-1500-word essay that draws on course material from that week. Essays will be due the following Monday at the end of the day at 11:59pm. Students must respond to two prompts per semester, one from the first half of the course, and one from the second half (see below). Students may choose to write an essay for more than one week from each half of the course, but the highest score will be kept per half (You can write for Week 1 and 2, but only one score will be kept. You will still need to write one essay for Week 6 through 11). Students may **not** write for a past week.

- Short Paper #1: Week 1 through Week 5. Last Possible Due Date: **Monday, Sept. 29th**
- Short Paper #2: Week 6 through Week 11. Last Possible Due Date: **Monday, Nov 10th**

Research Papers (20%)

Students are also expected to write one 2000–2500-word paper on a research question of their choice related to course topics. Students will be expected to identify an interesting research question and consult relevant course materials, research, and data to develop an argument that answers their question. Papers are due on **Friday, November 21st at 11:59pm.**

Exams (40%)

There will be two exams during this course: one midterm and one final. These exams are in-person, and you should get blue books from the CU Bookstore. Exams will consist of some combination of short answer and an essay question. Each exam is worth at least 15% of your course grade, with the highest score being weighted at 25%. Exams are not cumulative.

- Midterm: **Wednesday, October 8th (In-Class)**
- Final: **Wednesday, December 10th (7:30-10pm).**

Late/Makeup Assignment Policy

All assignments must be submitted by their specified due date as designated in the syllabus. Late assignments will suffer a 10 percent penalty for each day that they are late and will not be accepted after three days unless discussed in advance of the deadline. In general, there will be no make-up exams or extensions without a university approved excused absence. However, if you find yourself in a situation where you cannot complete the work on time, please communicate with me as soon as possible before the deadline or day of the exam.

Canvas & Email Policy

I will primarily communicate with you via Canvas Announcements. Please ensure Canvas notifications are enabled, and announcements go to your inbox. **Please do not use Canvas to send me a message.**

E-mail is the best way to get in touch with me. When communicating with me, emails must have IAFS3000, Humanitarianism, or a logical alternative indicating the email pertains to this course. Emails to me must be sent from your official University of Colorado email address. It is class policy that grades will not be discussed over email. I will generally reply to e-mails within 24 hours.

Artificial Intelligence

Generative artificial intelligence tools—software that creates new text, images, computer code, audio, video, and other content—have become widely available and pose new threats to academic integrity. **You may not use generative AI tools on assignments in this course.** Generative AI tools are typically trained on limited and pre-existing datasets that may be out of date and are designed to produce content that *appears* to be written by a human. As a result, work produced using generative AI is considered plagiarism and will often produce potentially outdated and inaccurate work that is not your own. If you use generative AI tools to complete assignments in this course, in ways that I have not explicitly authorized, this will be considered a violation of the Honor Code and there will be consequences appropriate to your specific case. These include getting a zero on the assignment, and possibly failing the class. Please act with integrity, for the sake of both your personal character and your academic record.

Please be **extremely careful** if you use tools like Grammarly or other generative AI for proofreading. This can and will rewrite your text and is considered a violation per the policy stated above if it does so. Use Spellcheck or other non-AI proofreading tools. If you aren't sure if you are using AI, err on the side of caution and don't use it.

Course Materials

There is no required textbook for this course. All readings will be made available on Canvas. Assigned readings are subject to change, but you will be notified in advance.

Schedule

Week 0: Course Introduction and Syllabus

Friday, August 22: Course Introduction & Syllabus

- No Reading

Week 1: What Are Human Rights?

Monday, August 25: What Are Human Rights?

- United Nations. 1948. Universal Declaration of Human Rights. pg 1-8.
- Dembour, Marie-Bénédicte. 2010. "What are Human Rights? Four Schools of Thought." *Human Rights Quarterly*. 32(1).

Wednesday, August 27: Challenges for Studying Human Rights

- Cordell, Rebecca, K. Chad Clay, Christopher J. Fariss, Reed M. Wood, and Thorin M. Wright. 2020. "Changing Standards or Political Whim? Evaluating Changes in the Content of US State Department Human Rights Reports Following Presidential Transitions." *Journal of Human Rights* 19(1):3–18.
- Arnon, Daniel, Peter Haschke, and Baekkwon Park. 2023. "The Right Accounting of Wrongs: Examining Temporal Changes to Human Rights Monitoring and Reporting." *British Journal of Political Science* 53(1):163–82.

Friday, August 29: Trends in Human Rights

- Haschke, Peter, and Mark Gibney. 2017. "Are Global Human Rights Conditions Static or Improving?" Pp. 88–100 in *Peace and Conflict 2017*, edited by D. A. Backer, R. Bhavnani, and P. K. Huth. Routledge.

Week 2: The European Union and Human Rights: Institutions

Monday, September 1: NO CLASS (Labor Day)

Wednesday, September 3: EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

- European Union. Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.
- Smismans, Stijn. 2010. "The European Union's Fundamental Rights Myth*." *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies* 48(1):45–66.

Friday, September 5: EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (2)

- Menéndez, Agustín José. 2002. "Chartering Europe: Legal Status and Policy Implications of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union." *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies* 40(3):471–90.

Week 3: EU Conditionality

Monday, September 8: Seeking Membership

- Pridham, Geoffrey. 2002. "EU Enlargement and Consolidating Democracy in Post-Communist States — Formality and Reality." *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies* 40(5):953–73.

Wednesday, September 10: Membership

- Blauburger, Michael, and Susanne K. Schmidt. 2017. "The European Court of Justice and Its Political Impact." *West European Politics* 40(4):907–18.
- Hofmann, Andreas. 2018. "Resistance against the Court of Justice of the European Union." *International Journal of Law in Context* 14(2):258–74.

Friday, September 12: Beyond Europe

- Donno, Daniela, and Michael Neureiter. 2018. "Can Human Rights Conditionality Reduce Repression? Examining the European Union's Economic Agreements." *The Review of International Organizations* 13(3):335–57.

Week 4: Democracy and Human Rights

Monday, September 15: Democratization and Human Rights

- Landman, Todd. 2018. "Democracy and Human Rights: Concepts, Measures, and Relationships." *Politics and Governance* 6(1):48–59.
- Donnelly, Jack. 1999. "Human Rights, Democracy, and Development." *Human Rights*.

Wednesday, September 17: Is Democracy a Human Right?

- Goodhart, Michael. 2008. "Human Rights and Global Democracy." *Ethics & International Affairs* 22(4):395–420.

Friday, September 19: Do Elections Promote Human Rights?

- Cordell, Rebecca. 2021. "The Political Costs of Abusing Human Rights: International Cooperation in Extraordinary Rendition." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 65(2–3):255–82.

Week 5: Human Rights and Democratic Backsliding

Monday, September 22: What is Democratic Backsliding?

- Waldner, David, and Ellen Lust. 2018. "Unwelcome Change: Coming to Terms with Democratic Backsliding." *Annual Review of Political Science* 21(1):93–113.
- Krekó, Péter, and Zsolt Enyedi. 2018. "Orbán's Laboratory of Illiberalism." *Journal of Democracy* 29(3):39–51.

Wednesday, September 24: Backsliding and Human Rights

- Adhikari, Bimal, Jeffrey King, and Amanda Murdie. 2024. "Examining the Effects of Democratic Backsliding on Human Rights Conditions." *Journal of Human Rights* 23(3):267–82.

Friday, September 26: Undoing Backsliding

- Blackington, Courtney, Antoaneta L. Dimitrova, Iulia Ionita, and Milada Anna Vachudova. 2024. "Mobilizing against Democratic Backsliding: What Motivates Protestors in Central and Eastern Europe?" *East European Politics and Societies* 38(4):1219–58.

Week 6: Human Rights and Authoritarian Regimes

Monday, September 29: Repression

- Hassan, Mai, Daniel Mattingly, and Elizabeth R. Nugent. 2022. "Political Control." *Annual Review of Political Science* 25:155–74.

Wednesday, October 1: Strategic Commitments

- Simmons, Beth A. 2009. *Mobilizing for Human Rights: International Law in Domestic Politics*. 1st ed. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 3

Friday, October 3: Competitive Authoritarian Regimes

- Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan A. Way. 2002. "Elections Without Democracy: The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism." *Journal of Democracy* 13(2):51–65.

Week 7: Exam 1

Monday, October 6: Review for Exam 1

Wednesday, October 8: Exam 1

Friday, October 10: Writing Workshop

Week 8: The Refugee Crisis (2015) and Migrant Rights

Monday, October 13: Responding to Refugee Crises

- Salehyan, Idean, and Burcu Savun. 2024. "Strategic Humanitarianism: Host States and Refugee Policy." *Annual Review of Political Science* 27(1):107–25.

Wednesday, October 15: The Hungarian Response

- Cantat, Céline, and Prem Kumar Rajaram. 2022. "The Politics of the Refugee Crisis in Hungary: Bordering and Ordering the Nation and Its Others." in *The Oxford Handbook of Migration Crises*.

Friday, October 17: The Politicization of Refugees

- Gessler, Theresa, and Sophia Hunger. 2022. "How the Refugee Crisis and Radical Right Parties Shape Party Competition on Immigration." *Political Science Research and Methods* 10(3):524–44.

Week 9: War in Ukraine

Monday, October 20: The EU Response

- Bosse, Giselle. 2022. "Values, Rights, and Changing Interests: The EU's Response to the War against Ukraine and the Responsibility to Protect Europeans." *Contemporary Security Policy* 43(3):531–46.

Wednesday, October 22: Differential Refugee Policy

- Drewski, Daniel, and Jürgen Gerhards. 2025. "Why Do States Discriminate between Refugee Groups? Understanding How Syrian and Ukrainian Refugees Were Framed in Germany and Poland." *American Journal of Cultural Sociology* 13(2):271–97.

Friday, October 24: Human Rights in Ukraine

- Trofimov, Yaroslac. 2024. "Part Four: Destruction" in *Our Enemies Will Vanish: The Russian Invasion of Ukraine's War of Independence*. Pages 115-148.

Week 10: Anti-Genderism

Monday, October 27: What is Anti-Genderism?

- Norocel, Ov Cristian, and David Paternotte. 2023. "The Dis/Articulation of Anti-Gender Politics in Eastern Europe: Introduction." *Problems of Post-Communism* 70(2):123–29.

Wednesday, October 29: Transnational Influences

- Mos, Martijn. 2023. "Routing or Rerouting Europe? The Civilizational Mission of Anti-Gender Politics in Eastern Europe." *Problems of Post-Communism* 70(2):143–52.
- Edenborg, Emil. 2023. "Anti-Gender Politics as Discourse Coalitions: Russia's Domestic and International Promotion of "Traditional Values."" *Problems of Post-Communism* 70(2):175–84.

Friday, October 31: Anti-Genderism and The Right

- Graff, Agnieszka. 2021. "Anti-Gender Mobilization and Right-Wing Populism." Pp. 266–75 in *The Routledge Handbook of Gender in Central-Eastern Europe and Eurasia*. London: Routledge.
- Guasti, Petra, and Lenka Bustikova. 2023. "Varieties of Illiberal Backlash in Central Europe." *Problems of Post-Communism* 70(2):130–42.

Week 11: Ethnic Politics

Monday, November 3: Ethnic Minorities in East Europe

- Bustikova, Lenka. 2021. "The Paradox of Minority Accommodation: Eastern Europe after 30 Years." *European Political Science* 20(2):261–69.

Wednesday, November 5: Diaspora Politics

- Lesińska, Magdalena, and Dominik Héjj. 2021. "Pragmatic Trans-Border Nationalism: A Comparative Analysis of Poland's and Hungary's Policies Towards Kin-Minorities in the Twenty-First Century." *Ethnopolitics* 20(1):53–66.

Friday, November 7: Legacy of Anti-Semitism

- Charnysh, Volha. 2015. "Historical Legacies of Interethnic Competition: Anti-Semitism and the EU Referendum in Poland." *Comparative Political Studies* 48(13):1711–45.

Week 12: The Roma

Monday, November 10: Roma Identity

- Csepeli, György, and Dávid Simon. 2004. "Construction of Roma Identity in Eastern and Central Europe: Perception and Self-identification." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 30(1):129–50.

Wednesday, November 12: Roma Integration

- Filipescu, Corina. 2009. "Revisiting Minority Integration in Eastern Europe: Examining the Case of Roma Integration in Romania." *Debate: Journal of Contemporary Central and Eastern Europe* 17(3):297–314.

Friday, November 14: The EU and the Roma

- Appel, Hilary. 2024. "Minority Rights, the Roma, and Neoliberal Reform in EU Accession." *East European Politics* 40(1):21–42.

Week 13: Protecting Human Rights

Monday, November 17: Human Rights Diplomacy

- Bassan-Nygate, Lotem. 2025. "How Does Shaming Human Rights Violators Abroad Shape Attitudes at Home?" *British Journal of Political Science* 55:e4.

Wednesday, November 19: Foreign Aid

- Carnegie, Allison, and Nikolay Marinov. 2017. "Foreign Aid, Human Rights, and Democracy Promotion: Evidence from a Natural Experiment." *American Journal of Political Science* 61(3):671–83.

Friday, November 21: NGOs

- Polizzi, Marc S., and Amanda Murdie. 2019. "NGOs and Human Rights." in *Routledge Handbook of NGOs and International Relations*, edited by T. Davies. Abingdon, Oxon ; New York, NY : Routledge, 2019.: Routledge.

THANKSGIVING BREAK (November 24-28th)

Week 14: Emerging Challenges for Human Rights

Monday, December 1: Technology and Human Rights

- Gohdes, Anita R. 2020. "Repression Technology: Internet Accessibility and State Violence." *American Journal of Political Science* 64(3):488–503.

Wednesday, December 3: AI and Human Rights

- Livingston, Steven, and Mathias Risse. 2019. "The Future Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Humans and Human Rights." *Ethics & International Affairs* 33(02):141–58.

Friday, December 5: Review for Final Exam

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, December 10th (7:30-10pm)

Classroom Behavior: Students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote, or online. Failure to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, marital status, political affiliation, or political philosophy. For more information, see the [classroom behavior policy](#), the [Student Code of Conduct](#), and the [Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance](#).

Accommodation for Disabilities: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or DSinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

If you have a temporary illness, injury or required medical isolation for which you require adjustment, please let me know as soon as possible via e-mail.

Preferred Student Names and Pronouns: CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

Honor Code: All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the [Honor Code](#). Violations of the Honor Code may include but are not limited to: plagiarism (including use of paper writing services or technology [such as essay bots]), cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. Understanding the course's syllabus is a vital part in adhering to the Honor Code. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution: StudentConduct@colorado.edu. Students found responsible for violating the [Honor Code](#) will be assigned resolution outcomes from the Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution as well as be subject to academic sanctions from the faculty member. Visit [Honor Code](#) for more information on the academic integrity policy.

Note: Use of AI in your written answers is considered plagiarism in this course and is not permitted and will result in an “F” in the course!

Discrimination and Harassment: CU Boulder is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. University policy prohibits [protected-class](#) discrimination and harassment, sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking, and related retaliation by or against members of our community on- and off-campus. The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) addresses these concerns, and individuals who have been subjected to misconduct can contact

OIEC at 303-492-2127 or email CUreport@colorado.edu. Information about university policies, [reporting options](#), and [support resources](#) including confidential services can be found on the [OIEC website](#). Please know that faculty and graduate instructors must inform OIEC when they are made aware of incidents related to these policies regardless of when or where something occurred. This is to ensure that individuals impacted receive outreach from OIEC about resolution options and support resources. To learn more about reporting and support for a variety of concerns, visit the [Don't Ignore It page](#).

Religious Holidays: Campus policy requires faculty to provide reasonable accommodations for students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please communicate the need for a religious accommodation in a timely manner. In this class, **please let me know by the end of week 3 of any religious accommodations you may require.** See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

Mental Health and Wellness: The University of Colorado Boulder is committed to the well-being of all students. If you are struggling with personal stressors, mental health or substance use concerns that are impacting academic or daily life, please contact [Counseling and Psychiatric Services \(CAPS\)](#) located in C4C or call (303) 492-2277, 24/7. Free and unlimited telehealth is also available through [Academic Live Care](#). The Academic Live Care site also provides information about additional wellness services on campus that are available to students.