

Sample Syllabus for Human Security

Course name:	Debating Human Security: Justice, Equality, Humanity and Rights
Course number:	TBA
Language of instruction:	English
Term:	Winter 2015
Course meeting times:	
Course meeting place:	Room #
Instructor:	Yun "Ray" Wang
Contact Information:	(Office) Email: ywang@nccu.edu.tw
Office address:	Room # 407, Institute of International Relations
Office hours:	Tuesday, and Wednesday [] and by appointment
Recommended Credit:	3 semester/4.5 quarter hours

Course Description

Human security is a new interdisciplinary topic that originates from two groups of literature: human rights and international security. The first group is full of practitioners and theorists who care about justice, humanity, and equality, mostly in the battles of defending human rights in the developing world. The second group gathers the best minds of security experts, policy-makers, and strategic analysts who dedicate to defend the peace, stability, and sustainability of the world, which, arguably, relies on the actions from the developed world. This somehow chaotic and self-contradictory nature makes this topic one of the most fascinated and debatable developments in the IR field. Students here will firstly learn various definitions and theories from two sub-disciplines. Then they will be introduced to case studies in two very different worlds. The final goal is to help students to build their own perspectives on selected issue areas: human rights, just war, humanitarian issues, trade and immigration, and sustainable politics. The semester is divided into five issue blocks and each block contains roughly one class on debates popular in the developed world and one case on practices in the developing world.

Course Prerequisites

Students are expected to have taken courses on international relations/affairs, political science, sociology, and/or other social science courses.

Course Requirements

■ Individual Tasks

There is 60% of the total course evaluation depending on personal understanding of assigned materials and individual participation. Two in-class quizzes and one take-home writing assignment are mandatory for all students. In addition, students are required to attend all classes and fully participate in class activities. You will receive points for class participation, and excessive absences could adversely affect your final grade.

- (1) **In-class quizzes:** multiple choices and short-essay questions
- (2) **Thought papers:** the prompt will be provided in Week 4 and due in Week 6

■ Group Tasks

Students should rank to the five research blocks (excluding theories) according to individual interests. The choice should be made before the second class. I will assign students with similar interests to form five study groups. If too many people choose the same focus then the instructor will make proper arrangement. Those groups have three important tasks:

- (1) **Discussion points:** They are responsible for providing discussion questions for the second class of each block; a brief summary and outlines should be sent to instructor a day before the

class. Non-group members are expected to submit one page feedback on at least one selected article. Article selection will be discussed in the end of each theory class.

- (2) **Case study report:** Each study group should choose a case study, focusing on China or some comparative perspectives between China and other nations. The proposal is due on Week 7. The final writing version can be divided into 2-person small groups depending on the nature of the subject. The division of the group and labor has to be approved by the instructor. Office meeting during Week 6 to Week 7 is strongly recommended.
- (3) **Presentation and round table:** In the last day of class, we will have group presentations and discussion about the five case study projects. The grade of each group will be co-judged by instructor, a guest speaker, and other groups. Multimedia, play or any other creative way of presentation is encouraged.

Texts: Mary Kaldor, *Human Security*. London: Polity Press 2007 and selected chapters from other sources. **All readings in the first class of each block are required; readings in the second class with *sign are recommended but students have to review at least one article to receive discussion points.**

Grading

1. Attendance:	10%
2. In-class quizzes:	30%
3. In-class exercises and participation:	10%
4. Thought papers:	10%
5. Research paper (group):	20%
6. Presentation and round table discussion:	20%

Attendance and Assignment Policy

As a general rule, for all essay assignments, you are expected to submit them in hardcopies and on time. Late papers will be marked down 5% after the first day and 1% every day afterwards. The instructor reserves the right make changes to forms of submission, i.e. hardcopies versus electronic submissions. **Please keep in mind that all assignments must be submitted on or before the last day of class. Therefore, NO LATE ASSIGNMENT WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE LAST DAY OF THE COURSE.**

Students will not be allowed to makeup any attendance or assignment points. Absences **will only be excused** in cases of family emergencies and serious accident requiring medical attention. If you miss an exam or assignment or are planning to miss a scheduled exam or quiz, please email me or see me during office hours as soon as possible.

Course Instructor

Yun Wang is the Assistant Professor of the Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies at National Chengchi University. He earned his Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of California, Riverside. He has worked for various NGOs and think tanks in Taiwan. He also gets one MA degree from National Chengchi University in Taipei and one from American University in Washington, DC. His current research interests include cross-Strait relations, human rights, religious freedom, and transnationalism.