

Topics in Politics: Global Human Rights & Sustainable Development Syllabus

PSCI 190/290 / Fall 2025

Instructor	Dr. Kurt Harris
E-mail	harrisk@suu.edu
Course Meeting Days and Time	TBD
Required Experiential Learning Dates	TBD (tentatively one before and one after Fall Break)
Office Hours	TBD

Catalog Description:

Students will learn about the many governmental and non-governmental organizations supporting human rights and working toward sustainable development around the world. Class discussions and student research will revolve around current events and efforts to promote peace and well-being.

Credit Hour Policy Statement:

This class meets the federal credit hour policy of 1 hour of class with an expected 2 hours of additional student work outside of class each week for approximately 15 weeks for each hour of credit, or a total of 45-75 total hours for each credit.

Course Learning Objectives:

Students who complete this course will demonstrate the ability to do the following:

- Describe the purposes of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Apply concepts and practices associated with human rights to sustainable development
- Research and assess organizations that support human rights and sustainable development
- Identify personal interests and plan action to promote human rights and/or sustainable development

HARLAXTON



Methods of Instruction: Reading, lectures, videos, films, and discussions.

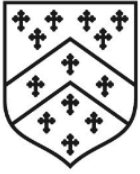
Textbooks and Required Reading:

Benton-Short, Lisa. *Sustainability and Sustainable Development: An Introduction*. Rowman & Littlefield: 2023. Print.

Course Schedule:

Preparation for class: Read all assigned texts before class meetings. Take notes about the assigned material in preparation for class discussions.

Week	Day	Topic of class meeting	Preparation before class
1	A	Introduction to the course	- None
	B	Introduction to Human Rights	- Reading to be provided - DUE: Reflective Essay 1
2	A	Introduction to Sustainable Development Goals 1	- Read Benton-Short Introduction
	B	Introduction to Sustainable Development Goals 2	- DUE: Reflective Essay 2
3	A	Poverty 1	- Read Chapter 1
	B	Poverty 2	- DUE: Reflective Essay 3
4	A	Hunger & Food Insecurity 1	- Read Chapter 2
	B	Hunger & Food Insecurity 1	- DUE: Reflective Essay 4
5	A	Health 1	- Read Chapter 3
	B	Health 2	- DUE: Reflective Essay 5
6	A	Education 1	- Read Chapter 4
	B	Education 2	- DUE: Reflective Essay 6
7	A	Human Rights Revisited	- Reading to be provided
	B	Review	- DUE: Midterm Portfolio
8	A & B	FALL BREAK	- NOTHING!
9	A	Gender Equality 1	- Read Chapter 5
	B	Gender Equality 2	- DUE: Reflective Essay 7
10	A	Peace, Justice, and Human Rights 1	- Read Chapter 16
	B	Peace, Justice, and Human Rights 2	- DUE: Reflective Essay 8
11	A	SDG TBD 1a	- Read Chapter TBD
	B	SDG TBD 1b	- DUE: Reflective Essay 9
12	A	SDG TBD 2a	- Read Chapter TBD



	B	SDG TBD 2b	- DUE: Reflective Essay 10
13	A	SDG TBD 3b	- Read Chapter TBD
	B	SDG TBD 3b	- DUE: Reflective Essay 11
14	A	Review	- Drop-in tutorial
	B	Individual Meeting	- Outline or draft of final essay
15	A	Student Presentations	- DUE: Presentation
	B	Conclusions	- DUE: Final Portfolio

Grading Criteria:

Grading scale

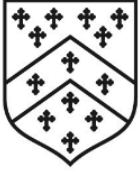
Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unacceptable
	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D+ = 67-69	
A = 93-100	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	D = 63-66	F = 0-59
A- = 90-92	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72	D- = 60-62	

Assignments

Assignment name	% value	Length or duration	Where to submit	Due date
1 RE 1: Human Rights	4	1 page	Online	1B
2 RE 2: SDGs	4	1 page	Online	2B
3 RE 3: Poverty	4	1 page	Online	3B
4 RE 4: Hunger	4	1 page	Online	4B
5 RE 5: Health	4	1 page	Online	5B
6 RE 6: Education	4	1 page	Online	6B
7 RE 7: Gender	4	1 page	Online	9B
8 RE 8: Peace	4	1 page	Online	10B
9 RE 9: SDG TBD 1	4	1 page	Online	11B
10 RE 10: SDG TBD 2	4	1 page	Online	12B
11 RE 11: SDG TBD 3	4	1 page	Online	13B
12 Midterm Portfolio	10	4 webpages	Online	7B
13 Presentation	6	5 minutes	Class	15A
14 Final Portfolio	20	4 webpages	Online	15B
15 Participation	20	~40 hours	Class	EVERY DAY

Assignments 1-11 Reflective Essays

Mode	Essay
Format	Semi-formal paper following MLA format



Criteria	Clearly written, logically organized, intellectually engaging
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Assignment 12 Midterm Portfolio

Mode	Website
Format	Google Sites, Weebly, Wix, or other platform
Criteria	Clearly written text, engaging images and layout, easy to navigate

Assignment 13 Presentation

Mode	In-class presentation
Format	Formal verbal presentation accompanied by visual presentation
Criteria	Clearly spoken, logically organized, intellectually engaging

Assignment 14 Final Portfolio

Mode	Website
Format	Google Sites, Weebly, Wix, or other platform
Criteria	Clearly written text, engaging images and layout, easy to navigate

Assignment 15 Participation

Mode	In class discussions
Format	Formality appropriate to the situation
Criteria	Attendance in all class meetings, with attentive listening and respectful and appropriate contributions to discussions on a regular basis

Late assignment submissions

1. Assignments submitted within one day (24 hours) after the due date will be assessed a late penalty of 1%
2. Assignments submitted within two days (48 hours) after the due date will be assessed a late penalty of 5%
3. Assignments submitted within three days (72 hours) after the due date will be assessed a late penalty of 10%
4. Assignments submitted within four days (96 hours) after the due date will be assessed a late penalty of 15%
5. Assignments submitted within five days (120 hours) after the due date will be assessed a late penalty of 20%
6. Assignments will not be accepted and will not receive a grade if they are not submitted within five days (120 hours) after the due date

Note: Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late. To request an extension, you must email the instructor at least two days before the due date.



Withdrawal and Attendance policies:

Harlaxton College expects regular class attendance by all students. Students are considered sufficiently mature to appreciate the necessity of regular and punctual attendance, to accept this personal responsibility and to accept the consequences of failure to attend. When absences occur due to emergency or medical reasons, students are expected to notify their instructors of the absence prior to class or to seek the assistance of the College nurse or a member of the Student Experience Team for help in notifying instructors.

Instructors have the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons upon review of appropriate documentation and professional recommendation supporting such a request. In the event of long-term illness, reasonable accommodations will be made to allow a student to complete a course. In these cases, the Dean will need to approve the long term nature of the accommodation.

The Dean of Harlaxton College has the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons.

Each instructor is expected to maintain an attendance policy in keeping with the nature of the Harlaxton program and may consider it in evaluating performance in their courses.

Policy Governing Unexcused Absences:

Harlaxton College operates an attendance policy that is binding on all faculty and students. The number of unexcused absences that are allowed before incurring a penalty is related to the number of times a class meets each week. For courses which meet three times a week, students are allowed a maximum of three unexcused absences during the semester without attracting penalty points. For courses meeting twice a week two such absences are permitted, and for courses meeting once a week a single absence is allowed. Additional unexcused absences will attract a grade penalty. In this class, any unexcused absence beyond two will result in a third-letter grade deduction (A- to B+, B+ to B, etc.)

Policy Governing Excused Absences.

- Excused absences are not given to facilitate student travel independent of College-sponsored travel.
- Students may be permitted to miss class because of participation in academic field trips.
- Instructors must coordinate and confirm academic field trips with the Dean, prior to the commencement of the Semester to ensure their inclusion in the Semester timetable.
- Where authorization for an academic field trip is requested after the commencement of the semester, the request must be submitted to the Dean.

The following information is required:



- Purpose and brief description of the official Harlaxton event or academic fieldtrip.
- Dates, location, and times (as applicable).
- Alphabetical list of students involved [Last Name/First Name] along with their student identification number.

If approval is granted:

- Instructors affected will be notified at least one week prior to the class period during which absence is anticipated, or as soon as possible.
- Missed class time due to student participation is to be considered an excused absence.
- The grade of a student may not be lowered in any class due to excused absences.
- It is the student's responsibility - to take the initiative by consulting with their instructors before the absence occurs, and - to do what is required by the instructor to make up all missed assignments and/or examinations.
- Instructors are required to assist students in these occasional situations of excused absences.

Honor Code:

All students at the University of Evansville agree to the University honor code: *I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid, nor will I tolerate an environment that condones the use of unauthorized aid.*

AI may be used only with prior permission or direction by the instructor.

- All work submitted in this course must be your own.
- The use of generative AI composition tools, such as those offered by ChatGPT, Google Bard, etc. is prohibited in this course except for specific assignments and subject to the instructor's guidelines.
- Work generated by such tools without proper attribution is plagiarism and, thereby, a breach of the University's Plagiarism and Academic Honesty policy.

Disability Policy:

It is the policy and practice of the University of Evansville to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Students should contact Disability Services within the Office of Counseling Services by calling 812-488-2663 to seek services or accommodations for disabilities. Written notification to faculty from Disability Services is required for academic accommodations.

The University of Evansville Disability Services office will share the request for academic accommodations with the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College. Staff members at Harlaxton will



meet individually with students to discuss needs and provide additional information related to examinations or other assessments.

Students from partner institutions should provide the appropriate letter of accommodation from their institution to the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College.



Non-Discrimination Statement

The University of Evansville expects all members of its community to treat each other with respect and civility. Harassing behaviors directed towards any member of our community will not be tolerated. As part of its commitment to non-discrimination, the University specifically prohibits harassment based on any other characteristics set forth in its nondiscrimination statement as follows: including race, color, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, creed or religion, national origin, age, disability, veteran status and all federally protected groups/classes. Any form of harassment undermines the mission of the University and negatively impacts the University community as a whole.

Prohibited Conduct and Confidentiality

The University of Evansville is committed to fostering an atmosphere free from harassment and discrimination. This commitment includes identifying problems that may lead to sexual harassment and misconduct, as well as other forms of harassment and discrimination, by creating an atmosphere in which the entire University community is sensitive to preventing prohibited conduct. Additionally, the University is committed to providing support and resources to individuals who have experienced prohibited conduct. This commitment includes effectively responding when a student, visitor, guest or program participant is the victim of prohibited conduct.

All campus employees, students, and guests are required to abide by the Title IX and Other Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy, the Harassment and Discrimination Policy, and the Consensual Sexual or Romantic Relationships Between Employees and Students Policy. Violation of these policies could result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion for students and termination for employees.

Faculty members at the University of Evansville are considered “Responsible Employees” under the applicable federal guidelines and the University’s policies. This means that I am unable to offer you confidentiality if you report any incidence of prohibited conduct to me as defined by Title IX statute. If I am made aware of a violation, I am required to report any known information to the Office of Institutional Equity.

You may choose to report the violation yourself the following ways:

- Annie Sills, Assistant Director of Institutional Equity and Title IX Coordinator: cs175@evansville.edu
- Keith Gehlhausen, Executive Director of HR and Institutional Equity: kg77@evansville.edu
- Title IX Office: titleix@evansville.edu, 812-288-5261
- Online: <https://www.evansville.edu/safety/report.cfm>



You may also choose to speak with a Confidential Resource. Confidential Resources are required to maintain confidentiality and cannot report violations to the Office of Institutional Equity:

University of Evansville

- Counseling Services: counselingservices@evansville.edu, 812-488-2633
- Health Center Professionals: healthcenter@evansville.edu, 812-488-2033
- University Chaplain: chaplain@evansville.edu, 812-488-5262

Harlaxton College

- College Nurse: Lesley Selby, RGN, +44 01476 403027, lselectby@harlaxton.ac.uk
- Counselling Services: counselling@harlaxton.ac.uk