



Topics in Politics: Global Human Rights & Sustainable Development

PSCI 190/290 / Fall 2025

Instructor	Dr. Kurt Harris
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Course Meeting Days and Time	Tue & Thu 9:30-10:45 / Sherwin Room
Course Mode	In-person
Required Experiential Learning Dates	12 September to Nottingham (\$70.00)
Student Drop-in Office Hours	Tue, Wed, Thu 11:00-12:00 / Visiting Faculty Office

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

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

HARLAXTON



Required Materials:

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 9/2	Introduction to the course	None
	B 9/4	Introduction to Human Rights	Reading to be provided - DUE: Reflective Essay 1
2	A 9/9	Introduction to Sustainable Development Goals 1	Read Benton-Short Introduction
	B 9/11	Introduction to Sustainable Development Goals 2	- DUE: Reflective Essay 2
	C 9/12	ON-SITE: National Justice Museum	Travel to Nottingham
3	A 9/16	Poverty 1	Read Chapter 1
	B 9/18	Poverty 2	- DUE: Reflective Essay 3
4	A 9/23	Hunger & Food Insecurity 1	Read Chapter 2
	B 9/25	Hunger & Food Insecurity 1	- DUE: Reflective Essay 4
5	A 9/30	Health 1	Read Chapter 3
	B 10/2	Health 2	- DUE: Reflective Essay 5
6	A 10/7	Education 1	Read Chapter 4
	B 10/9	Education 2	- DUE: Reflective Essay 6
7	A 10/14	Human Rights Revisited	Reading to be provided
	B 10/16	Review	- DUE: Midterm Portfolio
8	10/21-26	FALL BREAK	- None
9	A 10/28	Gender Equality 1	Read Chapter 5
	B 10/30	Gender Equality 2	- DUE: Reflective Essay 7
10	A 11/4	Peace, Justice, and Human Rights 1	Read Chapter 16
	B 11/6	Peace, Justice, and Human Rights 2	- DUE: Reflective Essay 8
11	A 11/11	SDG TBD 1a	Read Chapter TBD
	B 11/13	SDG TBD 1b	- DUE: Reflective Essay 9
12	A 11/18	SDG TBD 2a	Read Chapter TBD
	B 11/20	SDG TBD 2b	- DUE: Reflective Essay 10
13	A 11/25	Individual Meetings	Initial brainstorming for final portfolio
	B 11/27	Individual Meetings	Draft of outline of final portfolio
14	A 12/2	Review	None
	B 12/4	Individual Meetings	Draft of final portfolio
15	A 12/9	Student Presentations	- DUE: Presentation & 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	5	1 page	Online	9/4
2 RE 2: SDGs	5	1 page	Online	9/11
3 RE 3: Poverty	5	1 page	Online	9/18
4 RE 4: Hunger	5	1 page	Online	9/25
5 RE 5: Health	5	1 page	Online	10/2
6 RE 6: Education	5	1 page	Online	10/9
7 RE 7: Gender	5	1 page	Online	10/30
8 RE 8: Peace	5	1 page	Online	11/6
9 RE 9: SDG TBD 1	5	1 page	Online	11/13
10 RE 10: SDG TBD 2	5	1 page	Online	11/20
11 Midterm Portfolio	5	4 webpages	Online	10/16
12 Presentation	5	5 minutes	Class	12/9
13 Final Portfolio	20	4 webpages	Online	12/9
14 Participation	20	~40 hours	Class	EVERY DAY

Assignments 1-10 Reflective Essays

Mode	Essay
Format	Semi-formal paper following MLA format
Criteria	Clearly written, logically organized, intellectually engaging

Assignment 11 Midterm Portfolio

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

Assignment 12 Presentation

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



Assignment 13 Final Portfolio

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

Assignment 14 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.*

Course AI Policy:

In this course, submission of any work that is not entirely your own is considered academic dishonesty. The use of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT are prohibited and constitute a violation of academic integrity as examples of unauthorized aid.



University Policy Statements

Disability Policy:

The University of Evansville is committed to providing an accessible and supportive environment for students with disabilities. 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 at 812-488-2663 to seek services or accommodations for disabilities. Written notification to faculty from Disability Services is required for academic accommodations.

Institutional Equity and Title IX

UE is committed to fostering an atmosphere free from harassment and creating an inclusive campus for all members of the University community regardless of their sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religion, ethnicity, country of origin, ability, or veteran status. All Faculty members are considered Responsible Employees and required to report instances of discrimination, harassment, or sexual violence to the Office of Institutional Equity

You may also choose to speak to a Confidential Resource about your experience. Confidential Resources at the University include:

- Counseling Services: 812-488-2663, counselingservices@evansville.edu
- Crayton E. and Ellen Mann Health Center: 812-488-2033, healthcenter@evansville.edu
- Spiritual Formation Coordinator: 812- 488-5265, spiritualformation@evansville.edu

If you or someone you know has been harassed, assaulted, or discriminated against you can find the appropriate resources by contacting the Assistant Director of Institutional Equity and Title IX Coordinator: email titleix@evansville.edu ; phone (812) 488-5261. For more information visit <https://www.evansville.edu/offices/titleix/policy.cfm> .

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. For more information contact the [Center for Inclusive Excellence](#).



Campus Safety

All members of the UE community are automatically enrolled in the Ace Alerts Emergency Alert System. When the system is activated, emergency notification information is sent in the following manner: calls to campus IP phones, text messages, emails, campus housing speaker system, active threat sirens (non-weather related), digital signage, and AlertUS desktop on campus-owned computers.

To contact the Office of Public Safety:

Emergencies: 812-488-6911

Non-emergencies: 812-488-2051

Complaints, Grievances, and Appeals

The University of Evansville seeks to resolve all student concerns in a timely and effective manner through policies and processes documented in the University [Course Catalog](#) and [Student Handbook](#).

Student Resources

Access the links below to connect with departments and resources that are here to support all UE students.

[Academic Services:](#) Contact the Center for Academic Advising to connect with academic support services including supplemental instruction, tutoring, and time management and study skills help.

[Blackboard Guides:](#) Blackboard is the University of Evansville's course management system for online courses. Guides on using Blackboard can be found within [MyUE](#).

[Writing Center:](#) The Writing Center provides access to writing resources, appointments for one-on-one writing help, and assistance with any stage of the writing process.

[Counseling Services:](#) Counseling Services provides general, short-term counseling that assists students in identifying barriers and setting goals while improving coping strategies to achieve personal and academic goals.

[University Libraries:](#) Conduct research, access resources, and contact librarians for any research related help.

[Harlaxton College Nurse:](#) Lesley Selby, RGN, +44 01476 403027, l.selby@harlaxton.ac.uk