

# Fall 2020, FYS 047: Human Rights and Pop Culture

TR 3:30 – 4:45 PM

MERED 0233/ Zoom

Professor Julia Steggerda-Corey  
Email: [Julia.steggerda-corey@drake.edu](mailto:Julia.steggerda-corey@drake.edu)  
Phone: 515-271-2912<sup>1</sup>  
Office: Cartwright 128 (Law School)  
Office Hours:

## Contents

<b>I. Overview</b> .....	2
<b>Description and Goals:</b> .....	2
<b>Course Texts:</b> .....	3
<b>II. Assignments and Grading</b> .....	3
<b>Major Essay Assignments and Writing Portfolios (40% of final grade):</b> .....	3
<b>Critical Reflection Exercises (40% of final grade)</b> .....	3
<b>Class Participation &amp; Attendance (20%):</b> .....	4
<b>General Grading Policy:</b> .....	5
<b>Communication</b> .....	5
<b>Office Hours</b> .....	6
<b>III. Weekly Schedule (Subject to Change)</b> .....	6
<b>Unit 1: Introduction to Human Rights</b> .....	6
Week 1, Day 1: August 25 – VIRTUAL .....	6
Week 1, Day 2 August 27: - VIRTUAL .....	6
Week 2 – 9/1; 9/3: - VIRTUAL.....	6
<b>Unit 2: Race, Nationality, and Ethnicity</b> .....	6
Week 3 – 9/8; 9/10 – Race, Nationality, and Ethnicity.....	6
Week 4 – 9/15; 9/17 – Apartheid.....	7
Week 5 – 9/22; 9/24 – Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing.....	7
Week 6 – 9/29; 10/1 – The State of Racism and Xenophobia Today .....	7

---

<sup>1</sup> This phone will ring to my cell. Please do not call between the hours of 6pm and 8am. For emergency contact, send me an email.

<b>Unit 3: Gender Rights</b> .....	8
Week 7 – 10/6; 10/8 – Introduction .....	8
Week 8 – 10/13; 10/15 – VAW – Domestic and Sexual Violence .....	8
Week 9 – 10/20; 10/22 – VAW – Sharia Law .....	8
<b>Unit 3: Poverty</b> .....	9
Week 10 – 10/27; 10/29 – Poverty and Classism .....	9
<b>Unit 4: Freedom of Person</b> .....	9
Week 11 – 11/3 and 11/5 – Human Trafficking Overview.....	9
Week 12 – 11/10; 11/12 – Sex Trafficking.....	9
Week 13 – 11/17; 11/19 – Forced Labor Trafficking .....	9
<b>Unit 5: The Justice System</b> .....	10
Week 14 – 11/24 – Overview of Justice Systems, Race, and Gender - VIRTUAL.....	10
Week 15 – 12/1 - VIRTUAL .....	10
Week 15 – 12/4 - VIRTUAL .....	10

## **I. Overview**

### **Description and Goals:**

This class is intended to broaden your global perspective regarding human rights issues. There will be days this class is heavy and tough – it is okay for it to be heavy and tough. There will be days you feel challenged by the content or by a classmate. It is your responsibility as an adult to be open-minded to new information and perspectives and respectful of those with whom you do not agree.

Objectives:

- Display an understanding of specific issues facing people belonging to specific race, gender, and socio-economic groups through writing, journaling, and discussion.
- Compare and contrast the human experience around the globe based on factors such as geographic and regional location, race, gender, socio-economic class, and governing structure of one’s nation-state.
- Reflect on and analyze whether perspectives have changed after lectures, readings, and class discussions designed to enhance knowledge, awareness, and understanding.

### Course Texts:

- *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas. ISBN 9780062498533
  - This book can be found at the Drake University Bookstore [here](#). If you would like to buy this book from a Black-owned business, here is a list of Black-owned bookshops: <https://www.cntraveler.com/story/black-owned-bookstores>.
- *Finding Nouf* by Zoe Ferraris. ISBN 9780547237787
  - This book can be found at the Drake University Bookstore [here](#). If you would like to buy this book from a Black-owned business, here is a list of Black-owned bookshops: <https://www.cntraveler.com/story/black-owned-bookstores>.
- All other readings are on the Blackboard site

**Readings must always be completed by the day on which they are listed on the course schedule.**

## **II. Assignments and Grading**

There are a total of 563 points available in this course.

### **Major Essay Assignments and Writing Portfolios (~40% of final grade):**

- Writing Assignment #1: *The Hate U Give* Reflections
  - Points Possible: 75
- Writing Assignment #2: VAW Around the Globe
  - Points Possible: 75
- Writing Assignment #3: Race, Gender, and the Justice System
  - Points Possible: 75

Total points = 225

### **Critical Reflection Exercises (~40% of final grade)**

Throughout our semester, we will have a series of critical reflection exercises. Critical reflection exercises are designed to encourage critical analysis of a text, video, or piece of music and your reaction to it.

Each Critical Reflection Exercise is worth 20 points for a total of 220 points.

### **Discussion Board Entries**

At the beginning of class, please make sure to subscribe to two discussion boards: Q&A and Student Examples.<sup>2</sup>

### **The Writing Workshop**

This class is part of The Writing Workshop program. For this program, you will be required to meet with The Writing Workshop at least twice during the semester.

Your first meeting will be for Writing Assignment #1: *The Hate U Give* Reflections. You will meet with the Writing Workshop during week 6 and 7: October 1 – 8

Your second meeting will be for Writing Assignment #3: Race, Gender, and the Justice System. You will meet with the Writing Workshop virtually week 15: November 30 – December 4.

### **Class Participation & Attendance (~20%):**

Assigned readings must be read by the date under which they are listed. Students are required to come to class prepared to make quality contributions to the class session. Quality participation:

- illustrates knowledge and understanding of the assigned readings through specific references to author arguments and evidence
- shows reflective reading of the texts through insightful arguments inspired by the readings
- includes original and thoughtful arguments or comments in response to in-class lectures, discussions, and debates

The attendance policy for this semester will consider COVID-19 obstacles. We will meet 18 days over the semester. Please do not come to an in-person class if you have been exposed to COVID-19. To be excused from class, you must email me before class has started. You are expected to attend one class session per week. If you are scheduled to come to an in-person class session on Tuesdays and cannot attend, plan on joining the virtual class session on Thursdays.

Attendance is worth 54 points.

Participation is worth 54 points.

Total is 108 points.

---

<sup>2</sup> It is the policy of this course that you will remain respectful and courteous to one another in all interactions, including online. If you choose to post student examples, refrain from posting explicit content without first clearing it with me.

### General Grading Policy:

Drake University uses a plus and minus grading system. In terms of assigned numerical grades (from Major Assignments to pop quizzes to class participation), please refer to the following grade scale:

- A+ → 100%
  - A → 93.0 – 99.9%
  - A- → 90.9 – 92.9%
  - B+ → 87.0 – 89.9%
  - B → 83.0 – 86.9%
  - B- → 80.0 – 82.9%
  - C+ → 77.0 – 79.9%
  - C → 73.0 – 76.9%
  - C- → 70.0 – 72.9%
  - D+ → 67.0 – 69.9%
  - D → 63.0 – 66.9%
  - D- → 60.0 – 62.9%
  - F → 0 – 59.9%
- 
- Any assignment not submitted earns a 0.
  - An assignment plagiarized will also receive an automatic 0, and the student’s plagiarism will be reported to the Associate Dean of Students within the student’s college. For more information on the university’s academic dishonesty policies, see:  
<http://www.drake.edu/studentlife/handbookresources/handbook/academic/#dishonesty>

### Communication

I will communicate with you primarily via email. Please check your Drake email regularly. I will also post announcements on Blackboard. Subscribe to the “Announcements” on our Blackboard course to be updated via email.

Email expectations:

- Indicate what class you’re in, to use your Drake email address, and to provide some context for your question.
- Do not begin your email without a direct address, or with an interjection (such as “Hey—” or “Yo!”) or an imperative (“Listen, dude:”).
- The subject line of the email address should concisely indicate the reason for your email.
- Use your Drake email address to send emails pertaining to this course.

## Office Hours

All office hours will be held virtually this fall. Email is the best form of communication for making an appointment for office hours or asking questions.

## Classroom Policies – Additional policies can be found on Blackboard

# III. Weekly Schedule (Subject to Change)

## Unit 1: Introduction to Human Rights

### Week 1, Day 1: August 25 – VIRTUAL

- Complete Critical Reflection Assignment #1 in class

### Week 1, Day 2 August 27: - VIRTUAL

- Reading due:
  - Read Amnesty International 2017 World Report (highlighted sections/paragraphs only)
- Online:
  - Complete “Streaming Services” Survey
  - View Lecture 1: Intro to Human Rights (~30 min)

### Week 2 – 9/1; 9/3: - VIRTUAL

- Tuesday, 9/1: Virtual meeting for library tour
- Reading:
  - International instruments Sustainable Development Table:  
[https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/MDGs/Post2015/SDG\\_HR\\_Table.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/MDGs/Post2015/SDG_HR_Table.pdf)
  - Human Rights and the United States from the ACLU:  
<https://www.aclu.org/issues/human-rights>
  - Begin reading *The Hate U Give*. Draft report due Sunday, 9/27 and we will discuss in class Week 6.
- Online:
  - View Lecture 2: Human Rights Data
  - View Lecture 3: Human Rights in the United States

## Unit 2: Race, Nationality, and Ethnicity

### Week 3 – 9/8; 9/10 – Race, Nationality, and Ethnicity

- Reading:
  - ADL Racism Article

- Online:
  - View Race, Nationality, and Ethnicity Lecture
  - View Colonialism Theory Video
  - View Postcolonialism Theory Video
  - View “James Acaster on the Absurdity of the British Empire”
  - View *The Hate U Give* overview
- Writing: Complete Critical Reflection #2: History and Racial Justice

#### Week 4 – 9/15; 9/17 – Apartheid

- Online:
  - View Apartheid lecture
  - Watch District 9 trailer #1
  - Watch District 9 trailer #2
- Writing due:
  - Complete Critical Reflection #3: Apartheid and District 9

#### Week 5 – 9/22; 9/24 – Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing

- Online:
  - View Hotel Rwanda clip FIRST
  - Complete Critical Reflection #4: First Rwanda Critical Reflection (BEFORE watching the lecture and Rwandan genocide videos below)
  - View Genocide lecture
  - Watch Rwandan Genocide Pt 1
  - Watch Rwandan Genocide Pt 2
- Writing due:
  - Complete Critical Reflection #5: Reflections on Rwanda

#### Week 6 – 9/29; 10/1 – The State of Racism and Xenophobia Today

- **DUE: Sunday, 9/27: DRAFT of *The Hate U Give* paper at 11:59 pm CST via Blackboard. We will discuss in class. Attend Writing Workshop and conference with me after in-class discussion.**
- Reading
  - Washington Post map of racially tolerant countries: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2013/05/15/a-fascinating-map-of-the-worlds-most-and-least-racially-tolerant-countries/>
  - *The Hate U Give*
  - TIME article: *An Expert’s Take on the Symbolism in Childish Gambino’s Viral ‘This is America’ Video*: <https://time.com/5267890/childish-gambino-this-is-america-meaning/>
  - Insider article: *24 things you may have missed in Childish Gambino’s ‘This is America’ music video*: <https://www.insider.com/this-is-america-music-video-meaning-references-childish-gambino-donald-glover-2018-5>

- Watch: “This is America”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYOjWnS4cMY>

### Unit 3: Gender Rights

#### Week 7 – 10/6; 10/8 – Introduction

- **DUE: *The Hate U Give* writing assignment – attend Writing Workshop and conference with me. Final paper due FRIDAY, 10/9 at 11:59 PM CST via Blackboard.**
- Reading due:
  - Report on Women & Education. Pp. 1-4, 13-32. You may review the methodology sections if you would like, it is good information, but we will not discuss statistics and social sciences methodology.
  - Begin reading *Finding Nouf* pp. 1 – 146. We will discuss in class Week 10.
- Assignments due:
  - Critical Reflection #6: Barriers to Female Education
- Online:
  - View Intro to Gender Equality lecture
  - View Gender and Education lecture

#### Week 8 – 10/13; 10/15 – VAW – Domestic and Sexual Violence

- **Due on Sunday, 10/11, by 11:59 pm CST via Blackboard – each group’s list of countries for Writing Assignment #2**
- Reading due:
  - *Facts and Figures: Ending violence against women*
- Videos: Excerpt/ articles from *Big Little Lies*
- Writing: Complete Critical Reflection #7: *Big Little Lies*

#### Week 9 – 10/20; 10/22 – VAW – Sharia Law

- **Due on Sunday, 10/18, by 11:59 pm CST via Blackboard – your first draft of Writing Assignment #2 for peer review**
- Reading due:
  - *Sharia Law in American Courts*: Read pp. 734 – 760
  - *Finding Nouf* pp. 1 – 146
- Video:
  - *Jack Ryan* on Amazon Prime
    - Season 1, Ep. 3. 33:13 – 35:57; 36:37 – 37:47; 39:23 - 47
    - \*You can also just watch the whole episode.
- Writing due: Critical Reflection #8: Jack Ryan Review



## Unit 4: Poverty

### Week 10 – 10/27; 10/29 – Poverty and Classism

- **Due on Sunday, 10/25, by 11:59 pm CST via Blackboard – peer review for Writing Assignment #2**
- Online:
  - View Poverty & Classism lecture
  - View *Hunger Games* lecture
- Reading:
  - Begin reading *Finding Nouf* pp. 147 – end. We will discuss in Week 14.
- Critical Reflection #9: Classism in America Reflection

## Unit 5: Freedom of Person

### Week 11 – 11/3 and 11/5 – Human Trafficking Overview

- **Due on Sunday, 11/1, by 11:59 pm CST via Blackboard – Final Draft for Writing Assignment #2**
- Reading Due:
  - World Vision Trafficking fact sheet
  - *Mauritania: Taking a Stand against Slavery* from Amnesty International

### Week 12 – 11/10; 11/12 – Sex Trafficking

- **Due on Sunday, 11/8, by 11:59 pm CST via Blackboard – Group Response for Writing Assignment #2**
- Online
  - View Sex Trafficking lecture
- Media
  - Watch *Taken* clip
- Writing
  - Critical Reflection #10: *Taken* and Sex Trafficking vs. Cool Special Effects
- Reading
  - *The State of Human Trafficking and Sports* from ESPN.com

### Week 13 – 11/17; 11/19 – Forced Labor Trafficking

- Media
  - Watch *Slumdog Millionaire*
  - Watch excerpt from *Blood Diamond*
- Reading
  - Excerpt from *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* on Blackboard
- Critical Reflection #11: *Slumdog Millionaire* and Gender rights, trafficking, and classism

## Unit 6: The Justice System

### Week 14 – 11/24 – Overview of Justice Systems, Race, and Gender - VIRTUAL

- **Everyone attends virtual session on 11/24 this week! No class on Thursday, 11/26.**
- Reading due:
  - Review *The Hate U Give*
  - Finish reading *Finding Nouf*
- Online
  - View Human Rights and the Justice System lecture
  - View Race and the Justice System lecture
  - View Gender and the Justice System lecture

### Week 15 – 12/1 - VIRTUAL

- **Everyone attends virtual sessions on 12/1 and 12/4 of this week!**
- Writing:
  - Writing Assignment #3 – first draft is due and you will need to attend the Writing Workshop this week
- Online
  - View Socioeconomic Class and the Justice System lecture

### Week 15 – 12/4 - VIRTUAL

No additional assignments for our last class. We will wrap up our conversation on socioeconomic class and the justice system.