

*Payne, chapter 3*

- Know the distinction between civil, political, and social rights.
- Understand some of the reasons why there is a relative consensus among the international community to protect human rights—think, here, about the connections between globalization and this commitment to preventing human rights violations.
- Don't stress too much about the details of the philosophical justifications for human rights—we could spend a whole semester talking about this!—but be able to explain some of the general philosophical and historical reasons why we believe in and care about human rights.
- Know how the Universal Declaration of Human Rights came to be.
- Start thinking about what constitutes a human rights violation—*e.g.*, is executing a convicted murderer a violation of human rights; or does failing to give same-sex couples the same legal privileges that married heterosexual couples enjoy violate the human rights of homosexuals?
- Understand some of the proposed ways to enforce human rights in countries where they are not protected, and also some of the drawbacks of these methods.
- Start thinking about whether or not we have an obligation to protect human rights violations in other countries; and if so, then what this obligation requires of us.

*U.N. General Assembly - "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" (1948)*

- You don't need to memorize this list, but you must understand the purpose of this Declaration.
- Which universal human rights resemble the rights enumerated in our Constitution?
- What are a few of the human right(s) in this Declaration that you believe are the most important to protect? Why?
- Which rights, if any, do you think are unnecessary or far-fetched or unreasonable?
- Are there any rights you think deserve protecting, which are omitted from this Declaration?

*MacKinnon - "Rape Genocide, and Women's Human Rights" (1994)*

- This article builds on Payne's brief discussion about the protection of women's human rights.
- According to MacKinnon, why is it particularly difficult to prevent these egregious harms against women (rape and sexual murder)—especially in times of armed conflict?
- What is the domestic "structural problem" that MacKinnon claims undermines the ability of women who suffer this violence to seek justice?
- Do you believe that the forms of violence against women that MacKinnon details constitute human rights violations? Why or why not?
- If you *do* believe that these forms of violence constitute human rights violations, then if the problem is so pervasive that even U.N. troops charged with protecting civilians sometimes engage in violence against women (p.13), how might this policy problem be resolved?

*Rubin – “Veiled Rebellion” (2010)*

- Building on MacKinnon, this is a specific case study of the violence that some women suffer.
- How does this article relate to the domestic “structural problem” that MacKinnon argues undermines the ability of women to seek justice for the violence they endure?

(In other words, why is it difficult for Afghan women to redress the crimes against them?)

- What would you say is *the* (or *a*) foundational cause of this domestic abuse against Afghan women?

*Luban – “Torture, American-Style” (2005)*

- This article builds on Payne’s brief discussion about terrorism, torture, and human rights.
- Know some of the “cruel, inhuman, or degrading” interrogation techniques that Luban notes.
- Do you believe that these methods violate the human rights of those who are interrogated? Why or why not?
- According to Luban, how does the American government—at least during the Bush administration—justify its claim that its use of “cruel, inhuman, or degrading” interrogation methods does *not* constitute torture?

(Luban notes three general justifications.)

- Know Luban’s responses to these (three) proposed justifications.

*U.N. – “General Assembly Declares Access to Clean Water and Sanitation is a Human Right” (2010)*  
and

*Gorbachev – “The Right to Water” (2010)*

- Do you believe that this right is already protected by the 1948 Declaration? Why or why not?
- How might you connect this human right to the effects of globalization?

Specifically, what form(s) of globalization might be preventing the poor in developing countries from having access to “safe water and sanitation?”

Conversely, what form(s) of globalization might successfully increase the protection of this human right?

- What might the drawbacks be of increasing the list of rights that all persons should enjoy?