George Mason University
Graduate Course Approval/Inventory Form

Please complete this form and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses. Forward it as an email attachment to the Secretary of the Graduate Council. A printed copy of the form with signatures should be brought to the Graduate Council Meeting. Complete the Coordinator Form on page 2, if changes in this course will affect other units.

Please indicate:  __X__ NEW  ____ MODIFY  ____ DELETE

Local Unit:  Public and International Affairs  Graduate Council Approval Date:

Course Abbreviation:  GOVT  Course Number:  739

Full Course Title: Issues in Comparative and International Politics

Abbreviated Course Title (24 characters max.): ISSUES COMP & INTL POL

Credit hours:  3  Program of Record:  MA/Political Science

Repeateable for Credit?  _X_ D=Yes, not within same term  Up to 6 hours

___ T=Yes, within the same term  Up to  hours

___ N=Cannot be repeated for credit

Activity Code (please indicate):  ___ Lecture (LEC)  ___ Lab (LAB)  ___ Recitation (RCT)

___ Studio (STU)  ___ Internship (INT)  ___ Independent Study (IND)  ___X_ Seminar (SEM)

Catalog Credit Format  3:3:0  Course Level:  GF(500-600)  ____ GA(700+)  __X__

Maximum Enrollment:  

For NEW courses, first term to be offered:  F03

Prerequisites or corequisites:  GOVT 540

Catalog Description (35 words or less) Please use catalog format and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses.: Examination of a significant issue in comparative and international politics. The course will analyze an issue of contemporary and emerging concern in a seminar format. Course may be repeated for different topics.

For MODIFIED or DELETED courses as appropriate:

Last term offered:  Previous Course Abbreviation:  Previous number:

Description of modification:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES:

Submitted by:  ___________________________________  email:  ____________________

Department/Program:  ___________________________________  Date:  ____________________

College Committee:  ___________________________________  Date:  ____________________

Graduate Council Representative:  ___________________________________  Date:  ____________________
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
Course Coordination Form

**Approval from other units: NONE**

Please list those units outside of your own who may be affected by this new, modified, or deleted course. Each of these units must approve this change prior to its being submitted to the Graduate Council for approval.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit:</th>
<th>Head of Unit’s Signature:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduate Council approval: ____________________________ Date: __________

Graduate Council representative: ______________________ Date: __________

Provost Office representative: ________________________ Date: __________
Course Description:

This seminar explores in depth theoretical and practical issues of human rights in international relations. It examines the philosophical and legal foundations of human rights in world affairs, the realist, idealist and constructivist approaches to human rights studies taken by international relations specialists, and critical cases of human rights violations and preventions.

Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Discussion:</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book reviews (2X10%)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research paper:</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Class discussion: I will hand out discussion question sheets in advance of each session. Students should sign up to lead discussions. There may be multiple lead discussants for each question. Grading of class discussion is based on the number of times a student leads discussion and the quality of discussion.

Book review: Students choose two out of the four required books to write 1,500-word book reviews.

Research paper: Students write a research paper between 30-35 pages including notes (Times New Roman, Font 12, double space). There would be deduction of grades for papers longer than 35 pages.

Presentation: Students make a 15-20 minute presentation at the end of the term.

Assigned Readings:

The course requires the following four books. Additional readings are placed on reserve.


Course Schedule

Week 1: Philosophical and Legal Foundations of Human Rights


**Week 2-3: Realist Approach to Human Rights**


Due: Research paper proposal

**Week 3-4: Liberalist Approach to Human Rights**

Donnelly, *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice*

**Week 5-6: Constructivist Approach to Human Rights**


**Week 7: Preliminary discussion of research papers**

Week 8: Case 1: Human Rights in China

Week 9: Case 2: Human rights in Cuba

Week 10: Case 3: UN Human Rights Commission

Week 11: Case 4: War in Iraq

**Week 12-13: Presentations**