

International Human Rights Law

Course Syllabus Fall 2018

Professor Jae-Chun Won

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to international human rights law, policy, and process in advance academic level. The course will equip lawyers and law students to be more effective human rights advocates and volunteers in local, in national and in a global context. Students will have opportunities to explore human rights advocacy projects involving current issues of concern. The course will examine the main players in the field of international human rights. Course will review the concept of democracy, human right and the rule of law into the reality of the world.

Required Text:

-David Weissbrodt, Fionnuala Ni Aolain, Joan Fitzpatrick, and Frank Newman, *International Human Rights: Law, Policy and Process*, (2009) LexisNexis, (Matthew Bender), Fourth Edition

-Supplement: *Selected International Human Rights Instruments and the Bibliography for Research on International Human Rights Law*.

Recommended Reading:

-Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Human Rights Handbook for Parliamentarians,

-Report on the detailed findings of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (A/HRC/25/CRP.1): UN COI report

Internet Resources:

www.unhchr.ch; www.icrc.org; www.hrw.org; www.amnesty.org; www.umn.edu/humanrts;
www.icc-cpi.int/php/index.php; www.unicef.org; www.nhrc.go.kr

Grading:

Participations: 10%

Midterm Exam: 20%

Paper: 50%

Human Rights Advocacy and related Exercise/ Media Journal: 20%

Course Outline:

Week One:

I. Introduction

Introduction to International Human Rights Law & Human Rights Protection (lecture 1)

-Universal Declaration of Human Rights (ppt)

-why do we study human rights?

Week Two:

International Human Rights Protection Mechanism (ppt)

-Law

-UN Human Rights Protection Mechanism

-Organizations and players

Legal Research and Writing

II. Treaty Body

-Core Human Rights Treaties

Week Three:

Chapter 1: Introduction to International Human Rights (p.1-47)

-International Bill of Human Rights

-The historical development of international human rights

Week Four:

Introduction to human rights treaties

- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its application on DPRK (lecture 2)

Chapter 3: Ratification and Implementation of Treaties: The Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (p. 95-170): Read ICESCR

Week Five:

Application of international human treaty

-Convention on the Right of Child (CRC)/ the rights to participation (lecture 3)

Week Six:

Chapter 4: State Reporting under international human rights treaties: cultural relativism (p. 171-250): Read ICCPR

Week Seven:

Chapter 5: Women's Human Rights – Individual Complaint Procedures under international human rights treaties (p. 251-318) Read CEDAW

Week Eight:

Chapter 6: What U.N. Charter-Based Procedures are available for violations of human rights? (p.319-386): UN Sanctions

-UN Human Rights Council / UN OHCHR

III. UN Charter-Based Procedures and Special Procedures

Week Nine:

Chapter 7: Humanitarian Intervention: International Law and Procedures to Prevent and Halt Massive Human Rights Violations (p.387-474)

Week Ten:

International Human Rights Case and country specific case study (lecture 4)

- DPRK and Religious Freedom
- NK Human Rights: UN COI Report

Week Eleven:

Chapter 8: How can human rights violators be held accountable? (p. 475-586)

International Humanitarian Law

Human Rights Violations: Justice & Accountability (lecture 5)

IV. Human Rights Remedy and Accountability

-ICC, ICTR, ICRC

Week Twelve:

Chapter 9: International Human Rights Fact-Finding (p.587-665)

Week Thirteen:

Chapter 17: What seem to be the causes of human rights violations and how might knowledge as to causation be used? (p. 1177-1259)

Week Fourteen:

Paper Presentation and Seminar

Week Fifteen:

Paper Presentation and Seminar

Week Sixteen:

Paper Presentation and Seminar

Suggested Paper and Seminar Topics

- 21 Century Trends of Human Rights Development
- Human Rights & Sustainable Development
- Business and Human Rights
- Human Rights and Social Work
- North Korea and Human Rights
- Information Technology and Human Rights
- Human Rights and Religion
- Disability Rights
- Children's Rights
- Environment and Human Rights
- International Humanitarian Law (Should we allow the robot to kill humans?)
- Human Rights in Crisis Situation (war, natural disaster, etc.)

Paper Schedule

Topic due (2nd week) two topics with an explanation

Proposal due (4th week), topic, table of contents and list of books and journals

Poster day (10th week)

1st draft due (12th week),

2nd draft and final paper due (14th week)