

Course Syllabus
International Human Rights law
Instructor: Bermet Akimkanova

Offered Semester: Fall 2018

Class meeting hours: Saturday 12.45, 14.10

E-course site :

Consultations : For consultations and appointments, contact: bermet.akimkan@gmail.com

I. General Description of the Course

This course will introduce students to recent thought-provoking, engaging and professionally crafted doctrinal sources in the field of human rights from various parts of the world. Course examines the international law of human rights its origin, sources, content, enforcement, and justifications. It also surveys the legal recognition and protection of human rights within various jurisdictions. The course aims at equipping the students with essential knowledge of various types of human rights and leading cases in those areas. Areas of rights covered by the course include the most heatedly debated areas of human rights such as limitations, freedom of speech, prohibition of torture, war on terror and other rights in the field of socio-economic rights.

II. Learning outcomes

- Upon completion of the course, students will gain the following skills and substantive knowledge:
- Be able to conduct effective research in the field of international human rights law.
- Be familiar with the major universal and regional systems of human rights law, their relationships to each other, and the legal value and authority of declarations, decisions, judgments and other materials generated by them.
- Be comfortable with general concepts of public international law, to the extent that they are relevant in the field of human rights.
- Practically know how to apply International Human rights law to the specific situations of human rights abuse through identifying the human rights abuse, finding the violation of particular law and argue for the violation.
- Gain substantive knowledge on current actual issues of human rights
- Critically evaluate the efficiency of international human rights law

III. Course content:

Week 1	Organizational matters and introduction to the course
Introduction to International Human Rights law	
	<p>What are human rights? Reading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marie-Bénédicte Dembour, 'What Are Human Rights? Four Schools of Thought' (2010) 32(1) <i>Human Rights Quarterly</i> 1. 2. Anna Grear, "Framing the project' of international human rights law: reflections on the dysfunctional 'family' of the Universal Declaration' in Conor Gearty and Costas Douzinas (eds), <i>The Cambridge Companion to Human Rights Law</i> (CUP, 2012), 17-35. 3. Susan Marks, 'Human Rights and Root Causes' (2011) 74 <i>Modern Law Review</i> 57.
Week 2	<p>Birth and Evolution of human rights</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sir Nigel Rodley, 'International Human Rights Law' in Malcolm Evans, <i>International Law</i> (OUP, 4th ed, 2014), 783- 790. 2. Malcolm N. Shaw, <i>International Law</i> (CUP, 7th ed, 2014), 194-

	202.
Sources, Institutions and Systems	
	International norms/sources of IHRL/Universal protection of Human Rights Malcolm N. Shaw, <i>International Law</i> (CUP, 7th ed, 2014), 202-243.
Week 3	Regional Protection of Human Rights/ Beyond norms and Institutions Malcolm N. Shaw, <i>International Law</i> (CUP, 7th ed, 2014), 248-284.
	UN Treaty based and Charter based systems of Human Rights protection
State responsibility and Human Rights	
Week 4	National territory and effective control. Extra territorial obligations Human Rights and deportation Cases
	Inter-state cooperation and responsibility of states for the acts of international organizations
Week 5	Substantive obligations of states Typology of states obligations in theory and practice Obligation to protect Application of human rights in private relations Acceptable limitations of states
	Universalism and cultural relativism
Clash of rights	
Week 6	Freedom of religion v. freedom of expression
	Freedom of religion v. freedom of expression
Week 7	The terrorist and the war
	The Women
Week 8	The Refugee
	The poor
Week 9	Review session
	MIDTERM EXAM
	Fall Break
Week 10	The worker
	Business and human rights: PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY
Week 11	Business and human rights: PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY
	Litigating human rights: Jurisdiction and admissibility

Week 12	Litigating human rights: case study Askarov and Modinov cases
	Litigating human rights: Litigating in practice (in class exercise)
Week 13	Litigating human rights: Remedies and reparations
	The politics of rights and responsibility to protect
Week 14	Critical approaches to human rights Question of the class: Do you believe in Human Rights?
	Final exam review
Week 14	Final exam

IV. Course Materials

Reading materials are comprised of following sources:

1. Clapham, Andrew. Human Rights: A Very Short Introduction. OUP Oxford, 2007.
2. Condă, H. Victor. A Handbook of International Human Rights Terminology. U of Nebraska Press, 2004.
3. Contemporary Human Rights Ideas. 1 edition. London ; New York: Routledge, 2008.
4. Cruft, Rowan, S. Matthew Liao, and Massimo Renzo. Philosophical Foundations of Human Rights. OUP Oxford, 2015.
5. Duffy, Helen. The 'War on Terror' and the Framework of International Law. Cambridge University Press, 2005.
6. Ghere, Richard K. Rhetoric in Human Rights Advocacy: A Study of Exemplars. Lexington Books, 2015.
7. Schutter, Olivier De. International Human Rights Law: Cases, Materials, Commentary. Cambridge University Press, 2014.
8. Sheeran, Scott, and Sir Nigel Rodley. Routledge Handbook of International Human Rights Law. Routledge, 2014.
9. Shelton, Dinah. The Oxford Handbook of International Human Rights Law. OUP Oxford, 2013.
10. Waldron, Jeremy. The Harm in Hate Speech. Harvard University Press, 2012.

V. Teaching Methods

The class will meet twice a week. This course does not use traditional method of lecture and seminar division. There is going to be hybrid of lecture/seminar every class or it can be called as interactive lecture method. This method implies students to read new materials beforehand and be ready to discuss the given materials in class. Such method helps and equips the student a self-learning skill, which he/she will need in their further studies. Furthermore instructor will employ Socratic Method of teaching after each screening of the documentary which will be in a form of back and force questions and answers type discussion.

VI. Academic Conduct/ Course Policies

- (1) Students are expected to BE ON TIME for classes. If instructor marked the student absent in case that the student is late for the class, he is considered to be absent for the whole class, unless excused by instructor.
- (2) ATTENDANCE. Class attendance is required. If a student misses 4 or more class meetings he/she will automatically get 0 for the class participation and attendance component of grade.

- (3) The student has to follow ACADEMIC HONESTY code. All types of cheating (plagiarism etc.) are strictly prohibited. If a student fails to observe this requirement, instructor may give from an “F” for the work up to an “F” for the whole course depending on the type of assignment and other circumstances.

VII. Grading

During semester, students will have Mid-term and Final exam. Both of them will be in a form of analysis with hypothetical situations and short essay questions. There will be review session conducted before the Final Exam.

Grading will be based on following components:

- a) Class participation and Attendance 15%
- b) Mid-term exam 30%
- c) Final Exam 30%
- f) HR litigation assignment 10%

Class participation can be defined as following: constant attendance and participation in class, which shows his or her preparation for the class with either the use of and/or citation to the home material assignment that the student was assigned to read or to prepare. **If student misses more than 4 class meetings then he/she will automatically get 0 for class participation and attendance.**

Mid-term and Final Exam: Mid-term and final exam are the combinations of open-ended short essay questions and problem solving oriented hypothetical questions. Students will be given the entire class, i.e. 75 minutes to conclude their assignments. The format of the exam is closed book, students are not allowed to use any course materials. The instructor along with the assignment will provide the excerpts from treaty law and the names of the cases for students.

VIII. Grading Criteria

A 94-100%	C 68-73%
A- 90-93%	C- 64-67%
B+ 86-89%	D+ 60-63%
B 80-85%	D 54-59%
B- 77-79%	D- 50-53%
C+ 74-76%	F below 50%