I. COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

This course is an introduction to contemporary international human rights law and the lawyering skills that are critical for the articulation and enforcement of this body of international law. As such, a primary objective of the course is to introduce students to the philosophy, doctrine and history of international human rights law. In addition, students will gain knowledge of the varying means for enforcement of international human rights law through international organizations, international criminal tribunals, regional bodies and national legal systems with an emphasis on the U.S. Students will also study the relevance of international human rights law for actors beyond States including multinational corporations, non-governmental organizations and individuals. Furthermore, this course is intended to afford students the opportunity to analyze and apply traditional and emerging human rights law from the perspective of a practicing lawyer—as a legislator, litigator, or counsel to private clients, corporations, intergovernmental institutions, non-governmental organizations or governments. This will be achieved by engaging students in practicum consisting of a variety of exercises and simulations based upon hypothetical fact patterns that are relevant to a particular lecture topic. Finally, the course will conclude with a discussion on new substantive rights, new human rights actors and new enforcement mechanisms, such as humanitarian intervention.

The overarching goal through this study is for students to grapple with both the triumphs and limitations of the human rights movement thus far, born out of the tragedies of WWII and the subsequent cry for respect for and protection of human dignity around the globe. Through this study, it is intended for students to understand that “[a]lthough the frailties of human rights as an ideal or ideology as state practice are evident, that ideal has become a part of modern consciousness, a lens through which to see the world, a universal discourse, a potent aspiration.”\footnote{Steiner, H.J. et al., International Human Rights in Context, 3d. ed. (Oxford University Press 2008).} This has been achieved through the rapid evolution of international human rights law via treaties, customary international law and soft law in spite of inherent challenges in seeking to achieve and to enforce universal human rights norms that bridge the gap between complex cultures, peoples and languages around the globe.
II. COURSE STRUCTURE & REQUIREMENTS

This class meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00-10:20 a.m. in Room #205 beginning January 12th and ending April 22nd. We will not meet on Monday, Jan. 19th, due to MLK Jr. day or the week of March 23-27th due to Spring Break.

During each class period, there will be a lecture for the first 20-40 minutes of class followed by 40-60 minutes of discussion and debate. These times will be varied as required, depending on the topic for discussion and the needs of the class. Prior to each class period, I will post my power point outline for the lecture on my TWEN website.

In order to maximize learning for all involved in this course, students are requested to study all of the assigned required reading prior to showing up in class. The syllabus of assigned reading for each day is attached. Students are also expected to participate in the classroom discussion—in order to facilitate dialogue, students will be designated in advance as responsible for being called on to lead the discussion on the topic of the day. If you are on call and are not prepared on a particular day, please provide me with a note to that effect before class begins. All students are encouraged to volunteer taking part in the discussion regardless of whether or not you are assigned to be called upon.

In addition, on certain days there will be an assigned “practicum” with a fact pattern to be analyzed so as to allow for students to learn how to apply the material/the law in practice to hypotheticals that mirror real-life situations. On those days, all students may be asked to participate in the exercise.

The grade for this course will primarily be determined on the basis of performance on an open-book, in-class final exam scheduled for Friday, May 1st at 8:15 a.m. in Room 206. The final exam will test your knowledge of information from the assigned reading as well as classroom lectures and discussion.

The course grade will also be determined on the basis of classroom participation and attendance. The final grade in a course may be raised or lowered one grade-step (e.g. 92% (A-) to 93% (A), depending on classroom participation and attendance. Attendance is very important, and students are requested to miss no more than 2-3 days and only where it is necessary. Good cause reasons for missing class include clinical class requirements, illness or religious obligations.

III. REQUIRED TEXT

Steinhardt, Ralph G., Hoffman, Paul L., Camponovo, Christopher N., International Human Rights Lawyering (Thomson/West, 2009) (hereinafter “Casebook”) (on course reserve in library)
IV. OTHER INFORMATION

The following resources are provided to enhance your understanding of the course—to be consulted at your discretion—but are not required for preparing for class or the final examination.

A. Supplementary Texts (on course reserve in library)


Bederman, D., International Law Frameworks, 2d ed. (Foundation Press, 2006)

Burgenthal, T. & Murphy, S., Public International Law in a Nutshell, 4th ed. (Thomson/West, 2007)


Henkin, L. et al., Human Rights & 2003 Supplement (Foundation Press, 1999)


B. Leading Law Journals

American Journal of International Law
Columbia Human Rights Law Review
Harvard Human Rights Journal
Human Rights Law Review
Human Rights & Globalization Law Review
Intercultural Human Rights Law Review
New York Law School Journal of Human Rights
Yale Human Rights & Development Law Journal
C. Useful Websites

African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights: http://www.achpr.org/

American Society of International Law: http://www.asil.org

Amnesty International: www.amnesty.org

European Court of Human Rights: http://www.echr.coe.int/echr/

Human Rights First: www.humanrightsfirst.org

Human Rights Watch: www.hrw.org

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights: http://www.cidh.oas.org/defaulte.htm

Inter-American Court of Human Rights: http://www.corteidh.or.cr/index.cfm?CFID=523942&CFTOKEN=27166391

International Commission of Jurists: http://www.icj.org/

International Court of Justice: www.icj-cij.org/

International Criminal Court: www.icc-cpi.int

International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia: www.un.org/icty/

International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda: www.ictr.org

International Federation for Human Rights: www.fidh.org

International Law Students Association: http://74.220.209.240/about/index.shtml


Special Court for Sierra Leone: www.sc-sl.org


United States Department Office of the Legal Adviser: http://www.state.gov/s/l/
D. Career Resources


Human Rights Jobs: http://www.humanrightsjobs.com/

International law internships/fellowships:
http://www.asil.org/careers/CareerResources1_050824.html#internships


Swartz, S.A., *Careers in International Law*, 3d ed. (Chicago, IL: Section of International Law and Practice, American Bar Association, 2008) (on course reserve in the library)

V. OFFICE HOURS

Feel free to stop by during my regular office hours, which are on **Wednesdays from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.** If that time is not convenient for you, please send me an email or call so we can arrange for another time and/or day. Emails with questions are always welcome.