**International Human Rights Law  
LAW 6263, Section 1551**

**Professor Berta Esperanza Hernández-Truyol**

**Spring 2018**

**MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY – 1:00p.m. – 1:50p.m.**

**Room HOL 284**

**SYLLABUS**

1. **Class Materials**International Human Rights, 2nd Ed., Alston & Goodman, 2012.

ISBN: 9780199578726

Unless otherwise indicated, the reading assignments refer to the required textbook. Every student is expected to have completed the assigned readings **prior** to class.  
  
Students also are expected to read additional materials as indicated and as posted on the Canvas page, usually in either pdf or html format.  Adobe Reader 6.0 or higher should be used to view pdfs, otherwise you may experience some difficulties. Students should check Prof. Hernández’s Canvas course page on a regular basis for updates to the online materials and readings. Dates of last update are given for your convenience.  
  
***Note:*** In order to inform the current events discussion with which every class will start, students must read a newspaper daily. As the class focus is international, it is suggested that students read the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, London Financial Times, or some such publication (all of which are available via WestLaw or Lexis/Nexis).  It is important every student be prepared and class participation will be considered in grading.

1. **Course Description and Objectives**  
   The purpose of this course is to provide students an introduction to international human rights law. It starts with a glance at “global snapshots” – a series of current events that will frame the context for the course. We then study historical documents that form the Western foundation for the international human rights framework and familiarize ourselves with the theoretical foundations of human rights as well as with various critiques of the human rights developments, structures, and Congress. The historical study continues by reviewing the pre-World War II status of human rights, which includes the sources of law and the Nuremberg case. We then move to an analysis of the post-war developments, which includes a study of the types of rights that evolved. Next, we briefly touch upon the structures that exist for the implementation and enforcement of rights – both internationally and regionally. Following, we will study the sources of international law, including human rights, in the U.S. and scrutinize the role of the global norms in local legal systems. This leads to an interrogation of whether the international human rights system has changed the concept of state sovereignty and whether the rights that have evolved constitute a universal conceptualization or whether they are culturally relative. Finally, with the substantive and procedural foundation the above provides, we will study a number of particular topics in the human rights field, including rights of groups and particular rights. In this part, we also will engage themes of current interest/concern that involve human rights, including human rights and war, trade and human rights, and globalization and human rights.
2. **Student Learning Outcomes**

At the conclusion of the course, students will have a basic knowledge of and will be able to analyze:

- History of International Human Rights development

- Sources of International Law

- Classification of Rights

- Structures of Human Rights enforcement – International and Regional

- Role of Non-State Actors

- Role of Human Rights in Domestic Systems

- Role of Culture

- Individual rights in the context of the current global climate

1. **Attendance**  
   I take attendance in accordance with University and Law School policy and ABA rules. Law School policy states as follows:

“Class attendance is a primary obligation of each student, whose right to continued enrollment in the course and to take the examination is conditioned upon a record of attendance satisfactory to the professor.”

The American Bar Association’s standards provide that “regular and punctual class attendance is necessary to satisfy residence and class hour requirements.”

Absences for religious reasons are excused in accordance with university policy.

Please be on time as it is distracting for everyone to have persons coming into the classroom after class starts.

1. **Examination & Grading**The exam will be a 24-hour take-home. Only the class materials, which include the student's notes, the text, assigned readings, and any additional handouts that are distributed may be used. The exam will be distributed and collected electronically. Further information regarding this will be available later in the semester.  A previous year's exam and answer key will be made available for review from Prof. Hernández's Canvas course page.  
     
   Class participation is considered an integral part of the course and students are expected to keep up with the reading and be prepared for class discussion. Grades are raised for extraordinary performance in class up to a one-half grade "bump." Minus grades will be used in this course. And as noted above, grades may be negatively affected by excessive absences.

Information on the University policy as to assigning grade points is available at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx#averaging>

1. **Class Participation**

Class participation is an important part of the course. I anticipate that students will keep up with the reading and be prepared for class discussion. The most instructive and enjoyable classes are those in which many people take part in the conversation. I understand that some students are eager to speak while others are reluctant to do so. While I will call on volunteers, I will also call on others. If you are not prepared for class on a particular day, please let me know before class and I will not call on you that day. We all have unexpected things happen that can derail our plans. I look forward to everyone contributing their insights in class.

1. **Class Preparation**

Anticipate spending about 3-4 hours preparing for each class meeting. Prep time includes reading the materials, briefing the cases, thinking about the materials, and synthesizing your learning and knowledge of the assigned materials.

1. **Grades**

The Levin College of Law’s mean and mandatory distributions are posted on the College’s website and this class adheres to that posted grading policy. The following chart describes the specific letter grade/grade point equivalent in place:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Letter Grade** | **Point Equivalent** |
| A (Excellent) | 4.0 |
| A- | 3.67 |
| B+ | 3.33 |
| B | 3.0 |
| B- | 2.67 |
| C+ | 2.33 |
| C (Satisfactory) | 2.0 |
| C- | 1.67 |
| D+ | 1.33 |
| D (Poor) | 1.0 |
| D- | 0.67 |
| E (Failure) | 0.0 |

Grading is in accordance with Law School policy, which is available at: *https://www.law.ufl.edu/life-at-uf-law/office-of-student-affairs/current-students/academic-policies*.

1. **Accommodation**

Students with needs for accommodations should see Student Affairs whose staff will work with students according to Law School and University policy.

1. **Internet Policy and Related Issues**

The internet, and more generally your laptop, is a great learning tool and invaluable asset to effective advocates. It should be used during class time as you will use it in practice: responsibly and ethically, consistent with the high professional standards that will be expected of you by your clients and by those who will employ you. This is important not only to you, but also to all the students around you who are affected by how you use your computer. It can be distracting to your classmates if you use your computer for activities unrelated to class. When you are talking, you should lower your laptop to facilitate communication.

Cell phones, tablets, and other electronic equipment should be turned off and not used during class. If you need to leave your phone on vibrate to receive an emergency call, please feel free to do so.

1. **Academic Misconduct**

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at *http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php*.

1. **Office Hours**

My office is 319-A, my office number is 273-0928, and my email is [hernandez@law.ufl.edu](mailto:hernandez@law.ufl.edu). I have an open door policy.