International Human Rights Law Syllabus Fall 2010

Class 1

What are Human Rights?


Class 2

Historical Development

a. Document: Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Class 3

Cultural Relativism: theoretical underpinnings

Class 4

Cultural Relativism and Women’s Rights


Class 5

Human Rights and the Interstate System

a. Documents:
   a. United Nations Charter, Arts 1, 2, 55-74
   b. United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 60/251, establishing the Human Rights Council, 3 April 2006


Class 6

Civil and Political Rights

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

• The Nature of Obligations
   a. ICCPR

- **Extraterritoriality**
  a. ICCPR, Art. 2(1)
  c. Nowak, *CCPR Commentary*, pp. 43-45 (re-read)
  d. Declassified U.S. government documents (6 pages)
  f. ICJ, Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in Occupied Palestinian Territory (2004), paras. 102-113

- **The Human Rights Committee**
  a. ICCPR, Arts 28-41; Optional Protocol I

- **Human Rights Committee: General Comments**
  b. Human Rights Committee: General Comment 31

Class 7

**Derogations in Times of Public Emergency (Article 4)**

a. Human Rights Committee, General Comment 29

**Right to Life (Article 6)**

a. Human Rights Committee, *General Comment 6*
Class 8

The Prohibition on Torture and Inhumane Treatment (Article 7)

a. Human Rights Committee, *General Comment 20*

Class 9

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)

c. ICESCR
e. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, *General Comment No. 3 (1990)*, Nature of States’ Parties Obligations

Class 10

The Right to Health

a. ICESCR, Art. 12
b. General Comment No. 14


d. *Soobramoney v. Minister of Health*, Kwa-Zulu Natal, Constitutional Court of South Africa, CCT 8/02 (5 July 2002) [excerpts]

e. *Minister of Health v. Treatment Action Campaign* (No. 2), Constitutional Court of South Africa, CCT 8/02 (5 July 2002) [excerpts]

**The Right to Food**

a. ICESCR, Art. 11

b. General Comment No. 12

c. “Food” in Marks and Clapham, pp. 163-178


e. Interim Order, Supreme Court of India, *PUCL v. Union of India* (May 2003)

**Class 12**

**Human Rights and the Environment: Climate Change**


Inuit Petition to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights


