

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

Fall 2017

Philip Alston

Class Schedule: Tuesdays 12.00 – 1.50 and Fridays 10.00 – 11.50, Room FH 210

Office hours 9.00 – 11.00 Thursdays, sign-up with Brianne Cuffe VH 310
(brianne.cuffe@nyu.edu)

Course texts

The materials for the course will be provided on a weekly basis. For those who want a textbook, the materials will track carefully the contents of Alston and Goodman, *International Human Rights* (2013).

There is also a Documents Supplement which contains official documents which you will need to refer to during the course. This can also be downloaded from NYU Classes.

Make-up classes

There will be two make-up classes early in the semester in order to enable the course to finish one week earlier than scheduled. These classes have already been included in the syllabus below. They will be recorded in case you are unable to attend.

Syllabus

1. Fri., Sept. 1

Human Rights Concepts and Discourse

Reading: Supp Mat for Session 1

2. Tues., Sept. 5

The Global Framework for Contemporary Human Rights Discourse: Capital Punishment

3. Fri., Sept. 8

The Human Rights Regime: Background and Birth

- A. The Law of Armed Conflict and Customary International Law
- B. State Responsibility, General Principles and Natural Law

4. Fri., Sept. 8, 2-3.50 (makeup)

The Human Rights Regime: Background and Birth (cont'd)

- C. Interwar Minorities Regime and the Role of Treaties
- D. Judgment at Nuremberg

5. Tues., Sept. 12

The Human Rights Regime: Background and Birth (cont'd)
E. Birth of the Regime: The UN Charter and the UDHR

3. Civil and Political Rights

A. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Introduction

6. Fri., Sept. 15

B. Women's Rights and CEDAW

7. Tues., Sept. 19

B. Women's Rights and CEDAW (cont'd)

8. Fri., Sept. 22

C. Evolution of Human Rights: Sexual Orientation Discrimination

Reading: CB pp. 205-237

9. Fri., Sept. 22, 2.00 – 3.50

D. Norm Regression: The Torture Prohibition

Reading: CB pp. 238-276

10. Tues., Sept. 26

Economic and social rights

11. Fri., Sept. 29

Economic and social rights

12. Tues., Oct. 3

Economic and social rights

13. Fri., Oct. 6

National Security, Terrorism and the Law of Armed Conflict

14. Tues, Oct. 10

National Security, Terrorism and the Law of Armed Conflict (cont'd)

15. Fri., Oct. 13

Universalism and Cultural Relativism

16. Tues., Oct. 17

Dissonance and Conflict

1. Gender

17. Fri., Oct. 20

B. Dissonance and Conflict

3. Dress and Symbols

18. Tues., Oct. 24

ICC – Raul Pangalangan

19. Fri., Oct. 27

Treaty Bodies: The ICCPR Human Rights Committee

20. Tuesday, October 31

Treaty Bodies: The ICCPR Human Rights Committee

21. Friday, November 3

The United Nations Human Rights System

A. Overview of the UN Human Rights Machinery

B. The UN Human Rights Council

22. Tuesday, November 7

B. The UN Human Rights Council (cont'd)

C. The Role of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

23. Friday, November 10

D. The Security Council and the Responsibility to Protect

24. Tuesday, November 14

Non-State Actors and Human Rights

Transnational Corporations and Human Rights

25. Friday, November 17

Transnational Corporations and Human Rights

26. Tuesday, November 21

B. Armed Opposition Groups

27. Tuesday, November 28

Monitoring and evaluating human rights performance

Indicators

28. Friday December 1

Monitoring and evaluating human rights performance

Compliance and effectiveness