

DRAFT
International Human Rights, Law 831
Winter 2006
Professor Colin Picker

Syllabus and Course Outline

1. General Information

Class Times:

Tuesday and Thursdays 9:00 to 10:50 AM, Room B13.

This class will meet in condensed form. Instead of 14 weeks of class, this class will meet twice weekly for 7 weeks (with appropriate breaks provided).

Such an arrangement will allow employment of group discussions, simulations, paper presentations, and allow for lengthy periods between and after the two sessions for research and writing of the required class paper.

The class will meet during the weeks of:

February 7th through February 28th

March 14th through April 6th

There will be no class Thursday March 30th.

There may also be a mandatory one-hour Westlaw, Lexis or Librarian international law resources/research training session during the early part of the semester in the computer lab in the library. If so, attendance will then be taken at that session.

Office Hours: Anytime by appointment or knock on the door - Room 2-307

Contact information: My office number is 816 235 5928, e-mail is pickerc@umkc.edu

2. Course Book

Weisbrodt, Fitzpatrick, & Newman, International Human Rights: Law Policy and Process, 3rd edition (2001) ISBN: 1-58360-781-1

Weisbrodt, Fitzpatrick, Newman, Hoffman & Rumsey, Selected International Human Rights Instruments and Bibliography, 3rd edition (2001), ISBN: 1-58369-782-X

3. Course Evaluation

Based on 100% Class Paper, due April 24th. Additionally, student grades may be raised or reduced by one letter grade based on class performance/preparation.

I reserve the right to administer occasional 5-minute spot quizzes in order to assist my determination of student class preparation.

4. Class Research Paper – Human Rights Case Study

Students will investigate and research an issue facing international human rights law today. No students will be allowed to research the same case study. Students will present a progress report (ten minutes) on their findings for class discussion during the last three week period of class. Papers are due the first day of the exam period, April 24th. There are thus two full weeks after the last class in which the paper may be completed, as well as one and a half weeks in the middle during which papers may be researched and drafted.

The paper will comprise 5000 words or less (footnotes not included i.e. do not worry about footnotes counting towards your total word count, i.e. I require good and correct citation). Penalties may be imposed for violation of this limitation, including, but not limited to, striking any words beyond the limit.

Research and investigative techniques will be discussed early in the semester during class, and then students will choose their issue. Examples of case studies include, but are not limited to, issues involved with the following:

- Darfur Crisis
- Congo
- U.S. capital punishment
- Afghanistan
- Myanmar
- Specific issues concerning Iraq
- Chinese Ethnic Muslims
- U.S. Native Americans
- Specific issues concerning Chechnya
- Cuban Dissidents
- Specific issues concerning the Palestinians
- Specific issues concerning India/Pakistan

Students may submit a draft paper during the during the week of the 20th to the 24th of March, but not at any other time.

During the semester students will be asked to submit a description of the subject to be covered, a list of sources, and an outline. Failure to submit these requirements at the scheduled time may result in reduction of the paper grade.

5. Attendance Policy

UMKC School of Law Attendance Policy applies. Violations may result in forced withdrawal or a failing grade.

6. Initial Reading Assignments

The first seven weeks will focus on Human Rights and their General Enforcement. The second seven weeks will focus on Human Rights Enforcement within Regions – the United States, Europe and the Americas.

Total readings average out to 20 pages per hour of teaching.

Materials in the Documentary Supplement will be referred to in class.

I. Introduction

Tuesday February 7th: Introduction to HR and International Law

Case Book pages 2 to 29

Thursday February 9th: An Example of Human Rights - Child Soldiers

Case Book pages 38 to 82

II. Creation of Human Rights

Tuesday February 14th: What Rights? - Relativism/Positivism/Natural Law

Case Book pages 210 to 222

Thursday February 16th: Creation of a Human Right – E.g. ECOSOC

Case Book pages 84 to 117, 148 to 149

III. Enforcement of Human Rights

**Tuesday February 21st: Multilateral Enforcement:
Reporting & UN Charter Based Mechanisms**

Case Book pages 156-167; 228-62

Thursday February 23rd:

**Multilateral Enforcement:
Humanitarian Intervention**

Case Book pages 288-344

Tuesday February 28th:

Multilateral Enforcement: Prosecution

Case Book pages 366 to 432