Aims and objectives of the course:
The protection of fundamental rights is represented by international conventions, instruments, documents, case law, etc used to protect human rights at international, regional and national levels. It has become the minimum standard of protection in most countries.

This course on fundamental rights will examine such rights through their protection by international human rights law and its procedures. It will include a detailed consideration of global, regional, and national mechanisms for the protection of fundamental rights. It looks at the substantive and procedural aspects as well as selected topics. The course is designed to provide an overview to international human rights laws, mechanisms, and practices. The course focuses on the central elements of human rights, including the creation of modern individual rights in the international legal system, the nature of these rights and of governments' obligations, and the systems in place at the United Nations and elsewhere to protect people from human rights violations.

The aims of the course are to enable students to have a sound knowledge and understanding of the major areas of international human rights law, to enable students to appreciate the substantive protections of human rights at domestic, regional and international level, and to provide students with the ability to analyse and apply the law to factual situations, thus enabling them to apply the law of human rights to practical problems. It
further aims to enable students to acquire and enhance skills for effective
application of the law of human rights. The course will provide students with
the ability to critically assess the way human rights law applies and the
operation of these rules.

**Teaching method:**
This course will require from students to do readings before the class. Each class
will be focused on a specific topic. Students will be expected to have read all the
materials fully as the class will involve student participation and discussion.

There are no required textbooks.

There are required readings that are on the website of the Faculty. Please check and
follow the course in general and before each class for changes or additions.

**Discussion** is an important element of the course, which is conducted as a quasi-
seminar rather than a lecture course. Assigned materials should be read prior to
each class, and participation in class is essential and will be part of the final grade.

A short daily “what is in human rights news” will be held. Students are
expected to keep up with what is happening and contribute to this exercise.
Please prepare at least one human rights news story for each class.

**Grades** for the course will be made up of the following: 75 % for the research
paper, and 25 % class participation or 100% for the exam.
The **FINAL** and complete **long research paper** of about 25 pages is due at the last class in both hard and soft copies. Essays are to be handed in both electronically and in hard copies at the last class. The essay must be of good written and research quality. It must be well researched – using published material i.e. books and journals. Do not rely on internet materials that are not from published sources. References, including page numbers, must be systematic and complete. A complete, systematic and accurate bibliography must be attached.
Reading Assignments –

Class 1
Introduction to the course – The state of human rights in the world today

Class 2
What is international human rights law? An overview

Class 3
Human rights and international law

Class 4
What are human rights?

Class 5
Why protect human rights? Are rights universal?

Class 6
The history of international human rights

Class 7
The international human rights system

Class 8
The role of the United Nations in the protection of human rights
Class 9
UN mechanisms for the protection of human rights

Class 10
Why are there regional human rights protection systems?

Class 11
Socio-economic rights

Class 12
Civil and political rights

Class 13
The role of states in protecting human rights

Class 14
What to do about states that violate human rights?
Bibliography

12. Pasqualucci J. M. The practice and procedure of the Inter-American Court of


38. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Committee Study of the Central Intelligence Agency’s Detention and Interrogation Program. at


