

Hamline University School of Law
Law and Practice in the Inter-American Human Rights System
Class Syllabus -- Spring Semester 2009

CLASS	TOPIC(S)	LECTURERS/ ACTIVITIES	ASSIGNED READINGS/ ASSIGNMENTS/DEADLINES
Class 1 Jan. 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to class ▪ Overview of the Universal Human Rights System: Putting the Inter-American (I/A) System into the Universal Context 	<p>Lecturers: Colleen Beebe, Attorney and Adjunct Professor Rob Lafrentz, Attorney and Adjunct Professor Jennifer Prestholdt, Attorney, Deputy Director, The Advocates for Human Rights</p>	<p>Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Human Rights in a Nutshell, pp. 1-130
Class 2 Jan. 29	Introduction to the I/A Human Rights System	<p>Lecturers: Colleen Beebe Rob Lafrentz</p> <p>Video: <i>Historic Origins of the OAS Charter</i></p>	<p>Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evolution of the Inter-American Human Rights System in a Socio-Political Context, pp. 1-6 (Handout) ▪ OAS Charter ▪ Basic Docs., pp. 1-14 ▪ American Declaration ▪ American Convention ▪ Advisory Opinion I ▪ Advisory Opinion 10
Class 3 Feb. 5	Conducting Research on the I/A and Universal Human Rights Systems	<p>Lecturer: Mary Rumsey, International Law Librarian, University of MN Law Library</p>	<p>Reading: Handouts</p> <p>Assignment: Assignment on library research due February 12, Class 4.</p>
Class 4 Feb. 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The I/A Court and Commission ▪ Presenting a Petition and Exhaustion of Domestic Remedies 	<p>Lecturers: Colleen Beebe Juan Carlos Arjona Estevez, University of MN Law School Humphrey Fellow</p>	<p>Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Statute of the I/A Court ▪ Statute of the I/A Commission ▪ International Human Rights in a Nutshell, pp. 221-281 ▪ Petition Form, Basic Docs. ▪ American Convention, Arts. 34-51 ▪ I/A Comm'n Rules of Procedure, Arts. 22-55 ▪ Advisory Opinion 11 <p>Assignment: Library research assignment due.</p>
Class 5 Feb. 19	The I/A System and Indigenous Peoples: the Case of the Western Shoshone	<p>Lecturer: Rob Lafrentz</p>	<p>Reading: Handouts</p>

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Class 6 Feb. 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ State Responsibility for Human Rights Violations: the Rule of Due Diligence ▪ Protection Mechanisms in the I/A System: Provisional and Precautionary Measures 	<p><u>Lecturer:</u> Colleen Beebe Rob Lafrentz</p> <p><u>Activity:</u> The Case of Victoria Pariona</p>	<p><u>Reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Velasquez Rodriquez Case, Judgment of July 29, 1988 ▪ I/A Convention on the Forced Disappearance of Persons ▪ Advisory Opinion 8 ▪ Advisory Opinion 9 ▪ Advisory Opinion 14 ▪ Handouts on Peruvian Terrorism Laws <p><u>Assignment:</u> Team A Assignment</p>
Class 7 March 5	Woman's Rights and the I/A Human Rights System	<p><u>Lecturer:</u> Mary Ellison, Attorney, Women's Human Rights Program, The Advocates for Human Rights</p>	<p><u>Reading:</u> Handouts</p> <p><u>Assignment:</u> Team B Assignment</p>
Class 8 March 12	Repairing the Past and I/A Human Rights Law	<p><u>Lecturer:</u> Ahmed Sirleaf, Program Associate, The Advocates for Human Rights</p>	<p><u>Reading:</u> Justice in Context: The Relevance of Inter-American Human Rights Law and Practice to Repairing the Past, <i>The Handbook of Reparations</i>, pp. 504-38</p> <p><u>Assignment:</u> Team C Assignment</p>
Class 9 March 19	Proving Human Rights Abuses: the Use of Forensic Science	<p><u>Lecturer:</u> Susan Myster, Director of Forensic Science, Hamline University</p>	<p><u>Reading:</u> Handouts</p> <p><u>Assignment:</u> Team D Assignment</p>
NO CLASS SPRING BREAK			
Class 10 April 2	<p><u>Presentations:</u> Team A – Petitioner Team A – State Team A – Bench</p>	Student Presentation	<p><u>Assignment:</u> Team A Briefs Due, State and Petitioner</p>
Class 11 April 9	<p><u>Presentations:</u> First Part of Class: Team A – Bench</p> <p>Second Part of Class: Team B – Petitioner Team B – State Team B – Bench</p>	Student Presentation	<p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Team A Judgment Due, Bench ▪ Team B Briefs Due, State and Petitioner ▪ Team A Evaluations Due

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<p>Class 12 April 16</p>	<p><u>Presentations:</u> First Part of Class: Team B – Bench</p> <p>Second Part of Class: Team C – Petitioner Team C – State Team C – Bench</p>	<p>Student Presentation</p>	<p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Team B Judgment Due, Bench ▪ Team C Briefs Due, State and Petitioner ▪ Team B Evaluations Due
<p>Class 13 April 23</p>	<p><u>Presentations:</u> First Part of Class: Team C – Bench</p> <p>Second Part of Class: Team D – Petitioner Team D – State Team D – Bench</p>	<p>Student Presentation</p>	<p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Team C Judgment Due, Bench ▪ Team D Briefs Due, State and Petitioner ▪ Team C Evaluations Due
<p>Class 14 April 30</p>	<p><u>Presentations:</u> First Part of Class: Team D – Bench</p> <p><u>Panel:</u> Doing Human Rights Work: Practical Insights from Human Rights Advocates</p>	<p>Student Presentation</p>	<p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Team D Judgment Due, Bench ▪ Team D Evaluations Due

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Office Hours:

Adjunct Professors Beebe and Lafrentz will not hold regular office hours at the law school. They will be available to meet with students by appointment after class or by telephone. Students may contact them by email to set up appointments. The professors will communicate their email addresses and telephone numbers to students the first day of class.

Goals and Objectives:

The class, *Law and Policy in the Inter-American Human Rights System*, will provide students with a basic overview of the inter-American human rights systems. Through this course, participants will:

- Learn about the universal and inter-American regional human rights systems;
- Obtain a basic understanding of the I/A system's jurisprudence and protection mechanisms;
- Obtain basic human rights research skills;
- Obtain a basic understanding of specific issues addressed by the I/A system such as women's rights, Indigenous People's rights, reparations, truth commissions and the role of forensic science in the protection of human rights;
- Hone their research, writing and oral argument skills.

Testing and Grading/Attendance Policy:

The team writing assignment (a brief or judgment based on a hypothetical problem) and oral presentation are worth 75% of the overall course grade. The writing assignment and oral presentation will be explained in greater detail in class. Each student will be expected to evaluate the collaborative process of working in a team and the participation of team members. Individual team member's grades may vary depending upon the degree of collaboration as assessed by the team members.

For the remaining 25% of the grade, students will be evaluated based on individual and group class participation, completion of other assignments and class activities, and attendance.

Students are expected to arrive to class punctually, attend class regularly and be prepared to participate in class. The absence from four class periods (two evenings) will be considered excessive. If students are not prepared to participate in class, the professors may cancel the class and it will NOT be rescheduled, rather, the cancellation will count as an absence for each student and may decrease students' overall grade.