BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores linkages between international human rights law, conflict analysis and dispute resolution through a critical engagement with the promise and limits of human rights law in achieving justice in local and global contexts. Our inquiries will be guided by two fundamental questions: What are human rights? What do human rights do? The course begins with an examination of the concept, history and critiques of human rights, followed by an introduction to sources of international human rights law, and a review of key legal instruments and international institutions designed for the protection of human rights. We will then closely examine selected contemporary topics such as business and human rights, international human rights of Indigenous people and of other groups. The course concludes with a ‘stakeholder meeting’, an in class role-play exercise designed to allow students to apply the knowledge, insights and skills gained through the term to analyze and reflect upon a complex dispute.

This course does not presume a prior knowledge of international law or international human rights.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The course strives to be responsive to various learning styles and skill sets. Class time will consist of lectures, class discussions, and more interactive group exercises. Students should come to class fully willing to participate and are expected to interact with one another during non-lecture portions of the class.

EXPECTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Class attendance and participation
Stakeholder meeting exercise (participation in class and a written assignment)
Research paper

There is no final examination.
A student must complete each of the evaluative segments in order to pass the course.
There will be an opportunity for students to fulfill their major paper requirement in this course.

June 2016