

**FALL INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS (IHR) LAW – SYLLABUS AND  
ADVANCE ASSIGNMENT  
College of Law Students**

**Professor Ved Nanda**

**Fall Semester 2019**

**Wed. 2:45-5:15 p.m.**

**Sturm College of Law Rm tba**

I warmly welcome you to the study of this dynamic area of international law. International human rights law (IHR) has indeed transformed the status of the individual and the remedies available for violations in both the domestic and international arenas. Beginning with the UN General Assembly's adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, and subsequently numerous human rights treaties, no longer can a state justify egregious violations of human rights, as violators are to be held accountable. However, human rights violations occur all over the world and with the rise of undemocratic regimes, suppression has become the new norm in many countries. Hence, the topic is critically important in order to explore means to curb human rights violations.

The course book is RALPH STEINHARDT, *et al.*, INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYERING -- CASES AND MATERIALS (West 2009) ("RS"). The documentary supplement is not necessary. Additional weekly readings supplementing the course materials will be sent by email and posted.

*Overview*

We will study the norms, institutions, and processes (NIPs) of IHR law, with a special focus on its implementation and enforcement. We will study and pay special attention to the role of the United Nations and regional organizations.

In addition to the subjects covered in the coursebook, we will discuss a few selected areas, such as women's rights; children's rights; minority rights; rights of indigenous peoples; human trafficking; human rights and the environment; business and corporate social responsibility; refugees and internally displaced persons; the Responsibility to Protect; and possibly others, depending on your interest.

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If you have a disability/medical issue protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and need to request accommodations, please visit the Disability Services Program website at [www.du.edu/disability/dsp](http://www.du.edu/disability/dsp). You may also call 303.871.2372, or visit in person on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of Ruffato Hall, 1999 E. Evans Ave. <http://www.du.edu/studentlife/disability-services/faculty-staff/index.html>

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## ***Requirements***

Regular class attendance and participation are required. I expect you not to miss any class but if there is an unavoidable conflict, please let me know beforehand. Also, give me a note before class if you are not prepared to participate in that day's discussions; this will not affect your grade in any way.

***I will discuss the requirements with you during the first class – written exam? research paper? a quiz and a research paper? The research paper will be due the last scheduled day of exams.***

The experiential learning part will include three or four petitions. These will include petitions to the United Nations, the European Union and the European Commission, the U.S. President and U.S. Senate, and possibly to an international tribunal. We will select the topics during our first class.

Please contact me if you have any questions. My office is (407C). The telephone number is (303) 871-6279 - Anne Aguirre, Coordinator, the Ved Nanda Center. My cell is (720) 971-0503. Don't hesitate to call if needed. My emails are: [vnanda@law.du.edu](mailto:vnanda@law.du.edu) and [nandas@earthlink.net](mailto:nandas@earthlink.net) (home).

### **ADVANCE ASSIGNMENT**

**August 21:** Introduction to the Course; requirements; general discussion, decision on petitions; discussion on RS, *The Idea of International Human Rights Law*, pp. 1-32

### **SYLLABUS PART I**

**August 28:** discussion on the following law review articles – no need to read the footnotes:

Ved Nanda, *The Future of the Responsibility to Protect After Libya and Syria*, 21 Mich. State Int'l L. Rev. 1 (2013):

[https://www.westlaw.com/Document/I459ba59ffa7d11e28578f7ccc38dcbee/View/FullText.html?transitionType=Default&contextData=\(sc.Default\)&VR=3.0&RS=cblt1.0](https://www.westlaw.com/Document/I459ba59ffa7d11e28578f7ccc38dcbee/View/FullText.html?transitionType=Default&contextData=(sc.Default)&VR=3.0&RS=cblt1.0)

Risa E. Kaufman, et al., *The Local Turn in U.S. Human Rights: Introduction to the Special Symposium Issue*, 49 Colum. Hum. Rts. L. Rev 1 (Fall 2017):

[https://www.westlaw.com/Document/Iac8bd1f7f4ae11e79bf099c0ee06c731/View/FullText.html?transitionType=Default&contextData=\(sc.Default\)&VR=3.0&RS=cblt1.0](https://www.westlaw.com/Document/Iac8bd1f7f4ae11e79bf099c0ee06c731/View/FullText.html?transitionType=Default&contextData=(sc.Default)&VR=3.0&RS=cblt1.0)

Lauren E. Bartlett, *Local Human Rights Lawyering*, 62 St. Louis U.L.J. 887 (Summer 2018):

[https://www.westlaw.com/Document/I190c9788866311e8a5b3e3d9e23d7429/View/FullText.html?transitionType=Default&contextData=\(sc.Default\)&VR=3.0&RS=cblt1.0](https://www.westlaw.com/Document/I190c9788866311e8a5b3e3d9e23d7429/View/FullText.html?transitionType=Default&contextData=(sc.Default)&VR=3.0&RS=cblt1.0)

Laura Goolsby, *Why International Law Should Matter to Black Lives Matter A Draft Petition to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on Behalf of the Family of Eric Garner*, 21 U. Pa. J. L. & Soc. Change 29 (2018):

[https://www.westlaw.com/Document/Iee59950215cc11e89bf099c0ee06c731/View/FullText.html?transitionType=Default&contextData=\(sc.Default\)&VR=3.0&RS=cblt1.0](https://www.westlaw.com/Document/Iee59950215cc11e89bf099c0ee06c731/View/FullText.html?transitionType=Default&contextData=(sc.Default)&VR=3.0&RS=cblt1.0)

**September 4:** *Litigating Human Rights in Domestic Courts*, pp. 50-54; 61-92 and notes 1, 2, and 15

**September 11:** RS, *Using International Human Rights Law in Domestic Criminal Prosecutions*: pp. 212-259; additional readings

**September 18:** *This is the first session for which Korbelt students will join us. Law students will work on their petitions till 4:00.* *International Criminal Tribunals - From Nuremberg to the Ad Hoc International Criminal Tribunals to the International Criminal Court*: RS pp. 373-397; skim 397-408; additional readings

**September 25:** RS, *International Humanitarian Law in a Post 9/11 World*: pp. 1120-1138; 1147-1167; additional readings

**October 2:** *Truth Commissions*: RS pp. 996-1031; *International Criminal Court*: RS pp. 417-425; additional readings

**October 9:** *International Criminal Court*: RS pp. 425-435; *Regional Systems for the Protection of Human Rights – the European System*: RS pp. 442-464; 465-468 (we'll discuss notes 3, 4, 7, and 8); 468-478; additional readings

**October 16:** continued; *The Inter-American Human Rights System*: RS pp. 507-545; additional readings

**October 23:** *The African System for the Protection of Human Rights*, RS pp. 559-596; 613-617; *Regional Prospects in Asia and the Arab World*: skim RS pp. 630-660; additional readings; Review of the Regional Systems

**October 30:** *Multinational Corporations and Human Rights*: RS pp. 720-740; *Nongovernmental Organizations and Human Rights*: RS pp. 849-873; additional readings

**November 6:** *NGOs cont'd; Humanitarian Intervention and the Law of War*: RS pp. 1064-1116; additional readings

**November 13:** *The Future of International Human Rights Law -- Human Rights and Environmental Protection*: RS pp. 1254-1285; additional readings. Review

**November 20:** Review of the course; additional readings; petitions

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

**Please note that during this semester, we will have the Myres S. McDougal Distinguished Lecture in International Law and a number of additional events of special interest and visits by eminent scholars and practitioners.**

*Details to follow*