



SYLLABUS

Summer Session I

HUMAN RIGHTS

Prof. Marcelo F. Trucco
Universidad Nacional de Rosario
Contact Hrs: 40
Language of Instruction: English

SYLLABUS

This course will address the evolution of human rights around the globe, with special emphasis on Argentina and the rest of Latin America. “Recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world” says the Preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948. The aim of this seminar is to analyze the concept and the principal characteristics of human rights. Latin America and especially Argentina have a special history in regards to human rights, especially Argentina where during the last military dictatorship in 1976, elementary human rights guarantees were violated against every human person.

During the seminar we will also analyze the principal agreements and conventions of human rights that exist in the world, including the rights of the women, children, persons with disabilities, etc.

In this course we will examine national and international legal systems, including analysis of the importance of non-governmental organizations in the fight for the protection of the human rights.

Finally, we will analyze human rights violations in times of armed conflict, with the conviction that human rights must also be respected in times of war.

Class Schedule:

Week 1

- Introduction. Human rights. Concept. Characteristics.
- The foundations of human rights

- Human rights in Argentina: State terrorism in the 1970s. Torture and extra judicial executions. Disappearances. Child kidnappings. Impunity laws in Argentina.
- Film: “The Official Story”. (An Argentine film that won the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film in 1985. The film tells the story of a couple that adopted a child during the last military dictatorship).

Week 2

- The universal protection of human rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. UN 1948. Political and economic rights. Cultural and social rights.
- The Interamerican Human Rights protection. The American Convention on Human Rights. Defense mechanisms in Latin America. Cases where Argentina was declared guilty for violations of Human Rights: The case “Bulacio” and “Bayarri”.
- Visit to the “Memory Museum” (The museum is a memorial to the men and women of the last military dictatorship in Argentina).

Week 3

- Right to life. Right to die with dignity.
- Film: “The Sea Inside” (A Spanish film that won the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film in 2005. The film tells the story of a man that fights to finish his life with dignity).
- Abortion and the death penalty.
- **Mid term exam**

Week 4

- Right to non-discrimination
- Right to freedom of expression
- Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- International protection of women's rights

Week 5

- International Humanitarian Law. War crimes. Genocide.
- Rwanda and Yugoslavia’s Tribunals.
- International Criminal Court.

- **Final exam**
- Closing of the seminar. Final commentaries

Program Objectives

- Gain an intensive overview of the evolution of human rights in the world with special emphasis on Latin America and Argentina.
- Learn about the particular aspects of human rights in the region in question.
- Critical interpretation of the assigned readings.

Assignments:

Students will be active in class participation and critical with respect to the assigned readings. Classroom discussion will be encouraged by the instructor and/or guest lecturer. Midterm and final exams, in class assignments and activities.

Format:

This course will consist of two hour combined lecture, movies and discussion sessions that will take place four days per week during a five week period. Students must successfully complete the midterm and a finals exam to pass the seminar. More than three absences will affect a student's grade.

Texts:

- Buergenthal, Thomas, "The evolving international human rights system". The American Journal of International Law. Vol. 100.769.
- Nino, Carlos S. "The Ethic of Human Rights". Oxford Clarendon Press, 1990. Chapters I, II and III.
- The United Nations Study on Violence against Children
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/study.htm>
- The Rights of persons with disabilities.
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/disability/intro.htm#human>
- Steiner, Henry and Alston Phillip. "International Human Rights in context: Law, Politics and Morals". Oxford University Press, 1996.

Cases:

"Bulacio, Walter David". Interamerican Courts of Human Rights. 2003

"Bayarri". Interamerican Court of Human Rights. 2008

Other relevant writings and articles will be distributed and debated in class.