

## International Human Rights Law Seminar

Schulich School of Law

Fall 2018

Professor Llewellyn

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Office Hours: By appointment

In this course students will be introduced to International Human Rights Law and explore its role in defining and protecting human rights throughout the world. The course will begin with an overview of the foundations of human rights law and its relationship to other areas of public international law. Students will examine the major human rights conventions and instruments, the substantive rights entitlements contained within, the obligations of States to promote and protect these rights, the mechanisms to enforce and monitor whether such obligations are being met, and means of responding and remedying rights violations. Students will gain an understanding of the nature of human rights and the system of international human rights law including the roles that the United Nations, regional human rights organizations and states play in realizing and protecting human rights.

Students will have the opportunity to examine these issues via an in-depth independent study of one international human rights instrument. Students will share their research with class members through presentations and produce a research paper.

### Class Times:

Weds. 4:30-6:20pm Room 411 Weldon Law Building

### Course Requirements:

10% class participation

20% conference presentations

- Introduction to your HR Instrument of Study
- Presentation of Paper Research Question, Argument and Findings

70% research paper (including paper proposal worth 5% - students will be deducted up to 5% if a satisfactory paper proposal offering evidence of a developed research topic and argument is not submitted on time)

- Must be a **maximum** of 5000 words including footnotes and references. The word count must be recorded on the title page of the paper. Papers must be double spaced in 12 point font Times New Roman (or equivalent style). Footnote are to be single spaced. No separate bibliography is required, as your research should be evident from your footnotes. Footnotes must follow the *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citations* (McGill Guide).
- Papers must be submitted in hard copy to the Law School Reception Desk **AND** an electronic copy by e-mail to [jennifer.llewellyn@dal.ca](mailto:jennifer.llewellyn@dal.ca) with the subject line: "International HR Course paper submission" no later than 3pm on **Weds. December 5<sup>th</sup> 2018**.

- Papers should be a critical review, engagement, exploration of the subject evidencing independent thinking and a knowledgeable application of international human rights law, not simply a description of the topic selected. Papers must be the result of original and independent work and not the product of a collective activity. You must write your paper in your own words. Whenever you take an idea or a passage from another person you must acknowledge your debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing through footnotes. All papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to commercial plagiarism programs available to the University.

**Class participation:** This class is structured as a seminar class and as such will rely substantially on class discussion of the topics, readings and the issues raised by them. You are expected to come to class prepared to participate in discussion. To that end, you are required to have read the assigned materials and to read additional pieces on your assigned human rights instrument in order to contribute fully to the collective learning experience of the class. Whenever possible your contributions to discussion should be *substantive* in nature and intended to advance and assist the understanding of the class. They should not simply describe content of the readings or only seek content clarification. Your contributions to discussion will be assessed as part of your general participation in the class and that forms 10% of your final grade.

**Class Presentations:** 20% of your final grade will be based upon your presentations to the class related to the human rights instrument you are assigned. The instrument will serve as a lens through which to focus on and engage with the procedural and substantive aspects of International Human Rights Law. You will develop a greater depth of knowledge of the substantive and procedural elements of your selected human rights instrument and share this knowledge with the class. You will be expected to give two presentations related to the instrument you are researching. The first presentation should be approx. 5 mins in length and serve as a general introduction and overview of your instrument. The second presentation should be more detailed and focused on the particular issue related to your human rights instrument that you are developing for your research paper. This presentation should reflect an advanced stage of research and development of the ideas and arguments you will advance in your paper. It should not be simply a general discussion of an issue(s) you are interested in exploring. Each presentation should be 10-12mins in length. You will be expected to respond to questions as part of the class discussion following your presentation.

**Paper:** The final paper is worth 70% of your final grade. Your paper must be a scholarly research paper. Your paper topics must be approved by the Professor and directly related to the human rights instrument you have been assigned to study in depth. You are required to submit a two-page outline of your paper with a preliminary list of sources (at least 6 that you have reviewed and assessed how they are relevant and useful to your proposed topic) at the beginning of class on **Monday, October 17, 2016**. This outline must do more than simply identify the topic. You must identify and discuss the thesis of your paper and outline the issues you anticipate addressing. This outline will count for 5% of your final paper grade. Late submission will result in penalties assessed by the studies committee. Failure to submit on time without an extension from the studies committee will result in a deduction of 5% from your final paper grade.

**Please take note of the following policies and procedures:**

**1. Student Requests for Accommodation**

Requests for special accommodation for reasons such as illness, injury or family emergency will require an application to the Law School Studies Committee. Such requests (for example, for assignment extensions) must be made to Associate Dean, Academic Michael Deturbide or the Director of Student Services and Engagement Dana-Lyn Mackenzie as soon as possible, before a scheduled exam or a deadline for an assignment and will generally require documentation. Retroactive accommodation will not be provided. Please note that individual professors cannot entertain accommodation requests.

Students may request accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams due to barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia *Human Rights Act*. Students who require such accommodation must make their request to the Advising and Access Services Center (AASC) at the outset of the regular academic year. Please visit [www.dal.ca/access](http://www.dal.ca/access) for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation – Form A. Students may also contact the Advising and Access Services Centre directly at (902) 494-2836.

**2. Submission of Major Papers and Assignments**

Major papers and assignments must be submitted in hard copy. Students should hand papers in to the place stipulated by the instructor and ensure they are date and time stamped. Please read the law school policy on late penalties: <https://www.dal.ca/faculty/law/current-students/jd-students/academic-regulations.html>

Please note students may also be required to provide an identical electronic copy of their paper to the instructor by the due date. Papers may be submitted by the instructor to a text-matching software service to check for originality. Students wishing to choose an alternative method of checking the authenticity of their work must indicate to the instructor, by no later than the add/drop date of the course, which one of the following alternative methods they choose:

- a) submit copies of multiple drafts demonstrating development of their work
- b) submit copies of sources
- c) submit an annotated bibliography

**3. Plagiarism**

All students must read the University policies on plagiarism and academic honesty <http://academicintegrity.dal.ca/> and the Law School policy on plagiarism <http://www.dal.ca/faculty/law/current-students/jd-students/academic-regulations.html>. Any paper or assignment submitted by a student at the Schulich School of Law may be checked for originality to confirm that the student has not plagiarized from other sources. Plagiarism is

considered a serious academic offence which may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the law school, or even revocation of a degree. It is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities from which facts and opinions have been derived. Prior to submitting any paper or other assignment, students should read and familiarize themselves with the policies referred to above and should consult with the instructor if they have any questions. Ignorance of the policies on plagiarism will not excuse any violation of those policies.

**INCLUSIVITY:**

Dalhousie University is committed to a welcoming and respectful working and learning environment that is free from harassment and discrimination. We encourage open dialogue, however members of the class are expected to refrain from speaking or behaving in ways that are harmful to others, through racism, homophobia, sexism, or other derogatory treatment based on characteristics protected under the Nova Scotia *Human Rights Act*. Please do not hesitate to speak with me if you have questions or concerns, or see [www.dalrespect.dal.ca](http://www.dalrespect.dal.ca) for further information on resources and supports.