INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW  
Fall 2015  

Philip Alston

Class Schedule: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.00 – 10.50, Room VH 220

Office hours 11.00 – 1.00 Tuesdays, sign-up with Audrey Watne VH 310  
(Audrey.watne@nyu.edu)

Course texts  
The coursebook is Alston and Goodman, *International Human Rights* (2013) (hereafter “CB”). In addition, there is a set of Supplementary Materials (hereafter “Supp Mat”, which will be posted on NYU Classes). Materials will be added during the semester.

There is also a Documents Supplement which contains official documents which you will need to refer to during the course. This can also be downloaded from NYU Classes.

Make-up classes  
There will be six make-up classes during the semester. These have already been scheduled in the syllabus below. As a result, there will be no classes in the week of 11-17 Oct., 2-6 Nov., and 9-13 Nov.

Syllabus

1. Thurs., Aug. 27  
   Human Rights Concepts and Discourse  
   Reading: Supp Mat for Session 1

2. Tues., Sept. 1  
   The Global Framework for Contemporary Human Rights Discourse: Capital Punishment  
   Reading: CB pp. 17-57

3. Thurs., Sept. 3  
   The Human Rights Regime: Background and Birth  
   A. The Law of Armed Conflict and Customary International Law  
   B. State Responsibility, General Principles and Natural Law  
   Reading: CB pp. 58-101

4. Tues., Sept. 8  
   C. Interwar Minorities Regime and the Role of Treaties  
   D. Judgment at Nuremberg
Reading: CB pp. 102-138

5. Thurs., Sept. 10
   E. Birth of the Regime: The UN Charter and the UDHR
      Civil and Political Rights
         A. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Introduction
            Reading: CB pp. 139-165 and UN Charter and the UDHR in the Documents Supplement.

6. Fri., Sept. 11, 8.00-9.50 (make-up)
   B. Women’s Rights and CEDAW
   Reading: CB pp. 166-205

7. Thurs., Sept. 15
   B. Women’s Rights and CEDAW (cont’d)
   C. Evolution of Human Rights: Sexual Orientation Discrimination
   Reading: CB pp. 205-237

8. Thurs., Sept. 17
   D. Norm Regression: The Torture Prohibition
   Reading: CB pp. 238-276

9. Fri., Sept. 18, 8.00-9.50 (make-up)
   National Security, Terrorism and the Law of Armed Conflict
      A. Terrorism and Human Rights: Definitions and Relationships
      B. 11 September 2001: A Turning Point
      C. The Legal Framework: Public Emergencies, Derogations and the Law of Armed Conflict
   Reading: CB pp. 383-415

10. Mon., Sept. 21, 12.40-2.00 (make-up)
     D. Regulating Detention
     E. Torture and Diplomatic Assurances
     Reading: Supp. Mat. for Session 10, and CB pp. 432-465

11. Tues., Sept. 22
     Universalism and Cultural Relativism
     Dissonance and Conflict
         1. Gender
     Reading: CB pp. 531-577

12. Thurs., Sept. 24
     Dissonance and Conflict
         2. Religion
     Reading CB pp. 583-626

13. Fri., Sept. 25, 8.00-9.50 (make-up)
B. Dissonance and Conflict
3. Dress and Symbols
4. Freedom of Speech
Reading: CB pp. 627-658, 671-681

14. Mon., Sept. 28, 12.40-2.00 (make-up)
   The United Nations Human Rights System
   A. Overview of the UN Human Rights Machinery
   B. The UN Human Rights Council
Reading: CB pp. 687-718

15. Tues., Sept. 29
   B. The UN Human Rights Council (cont’d)
   C. The Role of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Reading: CB pp. 719-745

16. Thurs., Oct. 1
   D. The Security Council and the Responsibility to Protect
Reading: CB pp. 745-761 and Supp. Mat for session 16

17. Mon., Oct. 5, 12.40-2.00 (make-up)
   Treaty Bodies: The ICCPR Human Rights Committee
Reading: CB pp. 762-768 and 808-838

18. Tues., Oct 6
   Treaty Bodies: The ICCPR Human Rights Committee (cont’d)
   State Reporting: The 2013 US Report
Reading: CB pp. 768-791

19. Thurs., Oct. 8
   Regional Arrangements
   The European Convention System
Reading: CB pp. 889-933

20. Tues. Oct. 19
   The European Convention System (cont’d)
Reading: CB pp. 933-977

21. Thurs., Oct. 22
   The Inter-American System
Readings: CB pp. 978-1024

22. Tues., Oct. 26
   The African System
Readings: CB pp. 1025-1044
23. Thurs., Oct. 29
   Non-State Actors and Human Rights
   Transnational Corporations and Human Rights
Reading: CB pp. 1461-1497

24. Tues. Nov. 17
   Transnational Corporations and Human Rights (cont’d)
Reading:

25. Thurs., Nov. 19
   B. Armed Opposition Groups
   C. International Nongovernmental Organizations
Reading: CB pp. 1497-1514

26. Tues., Nov. 24
   Horizontal Interpenetration
   A. Universal Jurisdiction
Reading: CB pp. 1117-1143

27. Tues. Dec. 1
   B. US Civil Litigation and Global Comparisons
Reading: CB pp. 1144-1186

28. Thurs., Dec. 3
   Critiques of International Human Rights Law
Reading: Supp. Mat. For Session 28