**EHR 1201 Introduction to Human Rights Law**

**Course Description**

The course is designed to introduce the students to the prospect of an international society based on the concept of the rule of law, where every human being — regardless of race, gender, religion, or nationality — is treated with equal care and respect.  The course provides the theoretical and practical basis of and for understanding International human rights law. The course also looks at some of the obstacles realized in the process of implementing International human rights laws. The role of individuals and groups both at national and international levels in the realization of a political and social order in which human dignity is protected in accordance with fair and just principles and laws that transcend racial, sexual, religious, and national boundaries is at the core of this course. This course is designed to examine the grounds for, and the possibilities of, an international order based on global justice.

**Course Objectives**

1. The course aims at identifying principles that form the foundation of an internationally acceptable system of human rights.
2. To identify the conditions on which an international human rights law is based in order to contribute to the realization of global justice.
3. To identify the limitations, both structural and substantive, of current international human rights laws and institutions.

**Learning Objectives**

In attempting to realize the above objectives, the learners will have to learn the following:

1. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and assess the various institutions and regimes established for the monitoring and enforcement of international human rights laws.
2. The issues of compatibility of human values and ethos with international human rights
3. The universality of human rights and cultural relativism
4. The importance of human rights and international morality
5. The possibility of cross-cultural foundation of International Human Rights
6. And legalism and structural limitations of International human rights laws and Institutions.

**Course Outline**

1. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
2. Various Human Rights Institutions and Regimes established for the monitoring and enforcement of international human rights laws.
3. Compatibility of Human Values and Ethos with International Human Rights Laws
4. The universality of human rights laws and cultural relativism
5. The importance of human rights laws and international morality
6. Cross-cultural foundation of International Human Rights Laws
7. Legalism and structural limitations of International human rights laws and Institutions.

**Methodology**

The facilitator(s) will employ the following methods; Lectures, question and answer, guided discovery, Individual presentations, small group discussions, Inquiry, brain storming.

**Assessment Mode**

Take home exercise 15%

Practical exercise test 15%

End of semester examination 70%

**Reading List**

* Burns H. Weston, “Human Rights” in Encyclopaedia Britannica, N.D.
* Antonio Cassese, “Human Rights in a Changing World” (Polity Press, 1990), pp. 11-67.
* Rhoda E. Howard, “Dignity, Community, and Human Rights” in Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na‘im (ed.) Human Rights Cross-Cultural Perspectives: A Quest for Consensus (Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 1992), pp. 81-101.
* Michael J. Meyer, “Dignity, Rights, and Self-Control” in John Arthur and William.  Shaw, Social & Political philosophy, pp. 194-205.
* Jack Donnelly, “Human Rights, Individual Rights and Collective Rights” and” in Jan Berting (ed.) in Human Rights in a Pluralist World : Individuals and Collectivities, pp. 39-62.
* J. Herman Burgers, “The Function of Human Rights as Individual and Collective Rights in Jan Berting (ed.) Human Rights in a Pluralist World: Individuals and Collectivities, pp. 63-74.
* Dilys M. Hill, “Rights and their Realisation” in Ralph Beddard and Dilys M. Hill (ed.) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1992), pp. 1-21.
* Raymond Plant, “A Defence of Welfare Rights” in Ralph Beddard and Dilys M. Hill (ed.) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1992), pp.22-46.
* Julia Hausermann, “The Realisation and Implementation of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights” in Ralph Beddard and Dilys M. Hill (ed.) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1992), pp. 47-73.