**EHR 1205 Introduction to International and Human Rights Regimes**

**Course description**

The course will be an introduction of regional regimes with reference to civil and political rights; the convention of social, economic, and cultural rights, the European convention of Human Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the American Convention of Human Rights, the American Charter of Human Rights, African Charter of Human Rights and the Organization of African Unity.

**Course objectives**

This course will introduce the students to United Nations, European Union and African Union human rights regimes. Students will be equipped with human rights standard setting procedures, reporting procedures, complaint handing mechanism and human rights monitoring procedures.

**Learning Objectives**

By the end of the course, students will:

1. Know the standard setting procedures with in the studied human rights regimes
2. Know the complaint handling procedures with in the studied human rights regimes
3. Know the ratification procedures and status with in the studied human rights regimes
4. Know the reporting procedures with in the studied human rights regimes
5. Students should differentiate between hard and soft law
6. Know the human rights monitoring procedures with in the studied human rights regimes
7. Know the challenges of domesticating international human rights
8. Should demonstrate an ability to critique the international and regional human rights regimes

**Course outline**

1. Introduction to principles and sources of international Law
2. Introduction to Public international Law
3. International human rights law
4. Standard setting with in the UN system
5. Human rights reporting and complaint handling with in the UN
6. Human Rights monitoring with in the UN
7. Standard setting and the European Union
8. Human rights reporting and complaint handling in EU
9. Monitoring human rights in the EU
10. Standard setting within the African Union
11. Reporting and Complaint handling with in the African system
12. Monitoring Human rights in the African Union
13. The Justiciability of international human rights
14. Leading cases in international human rights law

**Methodology**

The facilitator(s) will employ the following methods; lectures, seminars, inquiry, study trips, case studies, expert talks, explanations, group work, brain storming.

**Assessment Mode**

Take home exercise 15%

Practical exercise test 15%

End of semester examination 70%

**Reading list**

Shaw, M., 2003, International Law, Cambridge University Press

Alston, P., 1991, “Revitalizing United Nations Work on Human Rights and Development”, Melbourne University Law Review, Vol. 18, 216.

Byrsk, A., ed., 2002, Globalization and Human Rights, University of California Press

Hurts, H., ed., 1994, Guide to International Human Rights Practice, 2nd Edition

Muzaffar, C., 1993, Human Rights and the New World Order, Just World Trust

Shivji, I G 1989, The Concept of Human Rights in Africa, Oxford: African Books Collective.

Steiner, H.J & Alston, P., 2000, International Human Rights in Context, 2nd ed, Clarendon Press.

United Nations, 1997, “Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments”, *Regional Instruments*, Vol. 11, United Nations Publications.

Weston, B., Falk, R., & Charlesworth, H., eds., 1997, International law and the World Order: A Problem Oriented Case Book, West Publishing House.

Rehman J., 2003, *I*nternational Human Rights Law. A Practical Approach, Pearson Education Limited