Venue and Times

- Class meets every Monday through Thursday at the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. (The Institute is located here).
- We will have a field trip on Thursday, June 4, where we will visit Costa Rican labor union plantation workers in the Caribbean region, as well as a rural community whose water has been contaminated by chemicals used in nearby pineapple plantations. (The community is located here. Check out how close the plantations are to the river).
- Classes on June 8th, 9th, and 10th will be held at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (The Court is located here).
- Spanish language classes are in the afternoons, Monday to Thursday, at the Costa Rican Language Academy (CRLA). (CRLA is located here).
- The written examination will take place on Friday, June 12.

Introductory Dinner and Orientation

- Our first informal meeting will be over dinner on Sunday, May 24, at 7pm at an Italian restaurant called Il Pomodoro San Pedro (located here, in the corner between Ave. 2 and Calle 1 in San Pedro, close to the Outlet Mall). In addition to meeting everyone in an informal setting, we will also take this opportunity to discuss important information regarding the program.

Course Aims and Scope

This course aims to provide participants with a good understanding of the nature, scope, and practical enforcement of international human rights law, with a focus on the Inter-American human rights system. The course is divided into 12 sessions over a period of three weeks.

The first week will provide a general overview of international human rights law, including the U.N. human rights system. In week two, we will cover the Inter-American human rights system. On Thursday of week two, students will travel to the Caribbean to learn about U.S. banana and pineapple corporations, labor rights, and environmental law. Week three will cover more specialized topics in the Inter-American system and will be taught by attorneys from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, local NGOs, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Preparation, Participation and Evaluation

- Class attendance is mandatory.
- Every student is expected to do the required reading for every class. This is a small class, with a
heavy emphasis on class discussion and class participation. If one student does not do the assigned reading, every student suffers as a result. We recommend you also look at the suggested readings, although these are not required.

- The course is evaluated by way of a written examination (75%) and class attendance and participation (25%). The written examination will take place at the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights on Friday, June 12, from 9 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

**Required Reading Material**

There is no required textbook. All of the readings will be available online or in our course website. You should have received an e-mail with instructions about how to access the course web site.

In addition, it is strongly recommended that you purchase and bring to Costa Rica one of the following two books. Each of these books provides a helpful compilation of key international human rights treaties and other documents.


If you prefer not to purchase either of these two books, you can find all of the relevant treaties on the web. However, internet access in Costa Rica is pretty spotty, so we recommend that you bring one of these two books, or download the material beforehand.
International and Inter-American Systems for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights

Course Outline

**Week One** (Profs. Josi and Rivera)

- May 25: Introduction to Public International Law and to International Human Rights Law
- May 26: UN Human Rights Treaties
- May 27: UN Treaty-based Human Rights Mechanisms
- May 28: UN Charter-based Human Rights Mechanisms

**Week Two** (Profs. Josi and Rivera)

- June 1: The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
- June 2: The Inter-American Court of Human Rights
- June 3: Human Rights in U.S. Courts / Corporate Accountability
- June 4: Field Trip to Plantations in the Caribbean with Local Attorney Emily Yozell (Corporate Accountability, Labor Rights, and the Environment)

**Week Three** (Guest Lecturers)

- June 8: Guest lectures by attorneys of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights
  - Women’s Rights
  - Domestic Enforcement of IACtHR Judgments
  - Torture and Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment

- June 9: Guest lectures by attorneys of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights
  - Physical liberty and detention
  - Reparations
  - Enforced Disappearances

- June 10: Guest lectures by attorneys of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and site visit to and guest lecture at the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)

- June 11: Introduction to Transitional Justice
  Review

- June 12: Final Exam (9:00 – 12:00)