

Course Description:

Human rights law is a distinct and fast developing area of law. Pakistan has signed and ratified various core International Human Rights Instruments and is required to follow the principles and directions laid down in these instruments. The course is designed to impart knowledge about meaning, scope and importance of human rights. The origin of human rights as a product of natural law derived from different philosophical and religious basis and its development. The course examines and raises a number of challenging questions for lawyers: the implementation of human rights, the universality and cultural debate etc. The focus of the course would be on International Bill of Human Rights, the enforcement mechanism both under the UN Chartered based bodies and the treaty based system. National Human Rights Law as contained in the Constitution and other statutes and its enforcement mechanisms. The course will also examine major human rights issues in Pakistan and the region.

Learning Objectives:

- a. To understand the basic theoretical development of human rights
- b. To know about the applicability and justiceability of human rights
- c. To understand the basic concepts of human rights
- d. To know the International conventions related with Human Rights
- e. To understand the concept of Universality of Human Rights

Course Contents:

- a. Introduction and Historical Background
- b. Nature of State and Individual
- c. Historical Examples of Human Rights Violations
- d. Universally Accepted Human Rights (International Bill of Human Rights)
- e. Civil and Political Rights (with Emphasis on Torture, Slavery, Right to Life)
- f. Economic Social and Cultural Rights
- g. Gender Based Human Rights
- h. Rights of the Children
- i. Right to Self Determination

- j. Challenges to Universality
- k. Enforcement Mechanism
- l. Business and Human Rights

References:

- a. Nickel, Making Sense of Human Rights
- b. Brian Tierney, The Idea on Natural Rights: Studies on Natural Rights, Natural Law and Church Law
- c. John Rawls, The Law of Peoples
- d. James Griffin, On Human Rights
- e. United Nations, The Universal Declaration on Human Rights

Oliver Schutter, International Human Rights Law: Cases Materials Commentary