

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS §602A

Professor: Judge J. Nho Trong Nguyen

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The objective of this class is to introduce the students to the development of Human Rights Law, the continuing struggle to advance the cause of human rights in the world, and the important roles and contributions of national and international tribunals.

The class will discuss a series of cases from the Nuremburg trial, the International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda, Yugoslavia, the various cases where the war criminals were tracked down and brought to justice in different countries long after World War II, and the development of the International Bill of Rights, the transition of South Africa from apartheid to a country with solid foundation on democracy and prosperity. The class will also focus on how several developing countries in different continents from Africa, to South America, North America, to Europe, and Asia, have struggled to find solutions for past human rights abuses and maintain national solidarity in peace and prosperity. We will also explore the human rights issues in the war on terrorism.

For final examination, tentatively, the students will be assigned to do research projects on human rights in a specific country and make recommendations on how to deal with the human rights situation in that country. The students will submit the research project paper to Judge Nguyen and then make their presentation of their research papers before a panel of lawyers and judges. Suggested countries for research projects are Cambodia, China, Vietnam, Myanmar, Guatemala, Argentina, Chile, South Africa or other country of particular interest to students related to human rights issues. The students will have the opportunity to give input to Judge Nguyen regarding the final examination format.