INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC
NYU SCHOOL OF LAW

PROFESSORS SMITA NARULA AND MARGARET SATTERTHWAITE

SPRING 2005 SYLLABUS

Assignments and readings are subject to change.

I. January 12 Introductory Class: Human Rights Lawyering Clinic Projects, and Discussion of Selection Process

Assignments
(1) Mission statement of human rights NGO – bring to class on January 12
(2) Short case example of human rights problem and approaches – due Tuesday, January 18 at 10 a.m.

II. January 19 Human Rights Advocacy: Players, Venues, and Approaches

Readings

Assignment
Short strategy memo – due Monday, January 24 at 10 a.m.

III. January 26 Substantive Law Session 1: Review of Intl. Human Rights Law

Readings
(1) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
(2) International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
(3) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Assignment
Field Report due Friday, January 28 at 10 a.m.

IV. February 2 Skills Session 1: Defining the Problem, Deciding on a Strategy

Readings

Assignment
Short overview of assigned human rights mechanism, due in class on February 9

V. February 9 Skills Session 2: Approaches to Monitoring Rights, Choosing Venues and Lodging Petitions

Readings

Assignment
Field Report due Friday, February 11 at 10 a.m.
VI. February 16  
**Substantive Law Session 2: International Humanitarian Law**

**Guest Speakers: TBA**

**Readings**

1. Convention (I) for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, Geneva, 1949: Articles 2 and 3; Excerpts from ICRC COMMENTARIES ON THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF AUGUST 12, 1949 COMMON ARTICLES 2 AND 3.


**Assignment**

Prepare for in-class simulation exercise

VII. February 23  
**Skills Session 3: Interviewing and Fact-Finding**

In-class video screening on interviewing

**Readings**


2. FORUM-ASIA & Union for Civil Liberty, HANDBOOK ON FACT-FINDING AND DOCUMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.


**Assignments**

Field Report due Friday, February 25 at 10 a.m.

Prepare for in-class simulation exercise

VIII. March 2  
**Skills Session 4: Documenting Abuses and Gathering Information from Governments and Other Potential Opponents**

**Readings**


3. UPI, “President Bashir: The International Intervention would not solve the Problem in Darfur” (July 27, 2004).


IX. March 9  Project Rounds 1: Team Presentations and Seminar Discussion

Assignment
Field Report due Friday, March 11 at 10 a.m.

NO CLASS MARCH 16: SPRING BREAK

X. March 23  Project Rounds 2: Team Presentations and Seminar Discussion

XI. March 30  Skills Session 5: Working with and through the Media

In-class video screening: Witness, Video for Change
Readings
(1) CENTER FOR COMMUNITY CHANGE, HOW TO TELL AND SELL YOUR STORY (1997).
[Quickly skim the whole booklet, and read pages 9-14, 22-30, and 43-51.]
(3) Press Releases and Press Stories [links to be sent by email].

Assignment
Field Report due Friday, April 1 at 10 a.m.

XII. March 30  Skills Session 6: Human Rights Report Writing

Readings
(1) Richard Wilson, Representing Human Rights Violations: Social Contexts and Subjectivities
(2) Report links to be sent by email.

XIII. April 6  Skills Session 5: Preventing and Combating Secondary Stress

Readings
(2) UNHCR, MANAGING THE STRESS OF HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES (2001).

XIV. April 13: Wrap-Up and Evaluation

Assignment
Field Report due Friday, April 15 at 10 a.m.

April 13 – April 27: Wrap up clinic projects.

Assignment
Final Field report/self-evaluation and portfolio due Wednesday, April 27 at 10 a.m.