INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS:
INTERNATIONAL LAW & MECHANISMS

I. Historical Origins of Human Rights Idea

II. Instruments of the Modern Human Rights System

   A. The International Bill of Rights
      Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
      International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
      International Covenant on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights (ICESCR)

   B. Subject-Specific Treaties
      Convention Against Torture (CAT)
      Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
      Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
      Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
      Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance
      Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

   C. Regional Human Rights Instruments
      American Convention on Human Rights
      American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man
      European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights
      African (Banjul) Charter on Human and People’s Rights

III. Customary International Law

IV. Soft Law

V. Status of International law in Domestic Law

   Hierarchy
   Treaties – self-executing (directly enforceable)?
   CIL

VI. International / Regional Implementation

   UN Human Rights Council / Special Rapporteurs & Working Groups
   UN Treaty Bodies (10)
   Int’l Criminal Tribunals (ICC, ICTY, ICTR, Lebanon, Cambodia)
   Regional Human Rights Systems (Europe, Inter-American, African)