First Assignment:

READ: Chapters 1 and 2

Class participation and an exam are the requirements for the class. Class participation accounts for half the grade and has two components: participation in the class discussion generally and leading one or two classes. We will discuss the following issues the first week.

1. What were the origins of human rights concerns?
2. How is this history relevant now?
3. How did the United Nations Charter change the view of human rights?
4. What did the Universal Declaration of Human Rights add? What are the problems with that instrument?
5. What are the differences between the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Social, Economic, and Cultural Rights? How do the rights enunciated in those treaties differ from those in the U.S. Constitution and statutes?
6. What is the role of the various international bodies that implement human rights?
7. What is international customary law?
8. What is law? Is enforcement a requirement?