Immigration and Human Rights Practicum & Spring Break Border Trip (Law 470) (4 LCE Credits)

Immigration law is one of the most complex, dynamic, and rewarding areas of practice. At the same time, in the practice of immigration, we witness some of the United States’ most egregious human rights abuses (from indefinite detention to family separation). The goal of this course is to teach the current realities of immigration law as experienced in practice, to understand immigration in the larger human rights paradigm, and to show how it intersects with other fields of public interest law in the pursuit of social justice. The class will have a special focus on the impact of immigration law and policy on human rights, especially the rights of children and families, as well as a distinct focus on the role of race and racism in the rule of immigration law. This unique course has a classroom component and distinct field-work components.

The class meets formally two hours per week in the evening to cover substantive immigration law issues, current topics/changes in immigration practice, and to develop practical skills tailored to the practice of immigration and human rights law practice and advocacy, with an emphasis on issues affecting children and families. Substantive topics include family immigration, protection for persons fleeing persecution, unaccompanied children, crimmigration, the right to life and US border policy, and abolitionist theory. Practical skills involve live client asylum cases, developed on behalf of the National Immigrant Justice Center, and include providing trauma informed services, affidavit drafting, brief writing, and deportation defense development. The seminar is offered for 2 LCE credits.

The practicum is offered for an additional 2 LCE credits to students who will also participate in an immersive spring break legal service trip to the US-Mexico border, partnering with local legal service providers (in Harlingen, TX and Tucson, AZ) working with detained immigrant children and families. Learn more. Apply for the Immigration Practicum by October Monday, October 24, 2022, application available online. For more information contact Prof. Sarah J. Diaz at sdiaz10@luc.edu.

International Human Rights (Law 294)

This course offers an introduction to the theory and practice of international human rights law. Through course readings and discussion, students will learn about international and domestic laws and institutions responsible for the creation and operation of the human rights regime. The course will examine sources of international human rights laws including treaties, customary international law, and domestic law. The course will evaluate international mechanisms involved in human rights protection including the United Nations, regional mechanisms (such as the Inter-American, European and African systems) and various national courts and hybrid tribunals tasked with enforcing international human rights law. In addition to legal theory, the course will help students understand the practice of human rights law with an eye toward understanding the place of the United States in the support of and adherence to human rights norms.