University of Connecticut
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Committee on Curricula and Courses

Proposal to offer a new or continuing 'Special Topics' course (xx95; formerly 298).

1. Date of this proposal: March 4, 2014

2. Semester and year this xx95 course will be offered: Fall 2014

3. Department: Human Rights Institute

4. Course number and Title proposed: HRTS 3295, "Human Rights and New Technologies"

5. Number of Credits: 3

6. Instructor: Molly Land

7. Instructor's position: Professor of Law and Human Rights

8. Has this topic been offered before? No If yes, when?

9. Is this a (x) 1st-time, ( ) 2nd-time, ( ) 3rd-time request to offer this topic?

10. Short description: This course will examine the role that new technologies (social media, mobile phones, Internet applications and platforms) are playing in the fulfillment, protection, and enforcement of international human rights. New technologies provide a vehicle for the enjoyment of certain rights, conduits for the exchange of information needed for the fulfillment of rights, and platforms for collecting information and engaging in advocacy around state accountability. Focusing on a series of case studies, the course will consider both the opportunities and risks presented by new technologies for human rights protection and enforcement. Although there are considerable benefits that can be realized through the deployment of new technologies toward human rights aims, there are also risks, not only privacy and security risks but also risks in the form of hate speech and discrimination online. Finally, the course will highlight some of the technical and legal innovations employed in the case studies selected to minimize the risks and maximize the opportunities provided by new technologies.

11. Please attach a sample/draft syllabus to first-time proposals.

12. Comments, if comment is called for:

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13. Dates approved by (see Note Q): Department Curriculum Committee: 4 March 2014
Department Faculty: 4 March 2014

14. Name, Phone Number, and e-mail address of principal contact person:
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