

Hi, I was not sure where to post this, but I thought perhaps on section 2's discussion forum. A few weeks ago, in my US Constitution class, they provided a slide based on the professor's interpretation of the ranking of laws in the USA. The teaching assistant told us based on interpretation of the professor's book on the US Constitution that the following are the hierarchy of laws in the USA (although there is some debate that goes on as well). Top ranked: US Constitution as the most democratic for laws and outranks all other things that follow (in order of rank of law hierarchy): Federal Statutes, Treaties (so I'm guessing this is where International Human Rights Treaties fall in this interpretation for the USA), US State Constitutions and US State Laws. So the higher the rank in this list, if there is a dispute with a law in a document lower in the list, the higher ranked document on democracy is supreme. They emphasize that it is a document that can be amended as time goes on and the world changes, but that it outranks all other things on the law list, with Treaties 3rd on the list. I know the teaching assistant said there are some debates on whether this is true or not, whether International Treaties rank below the US Constitution and Federal Statutes, but this was the interpretation of what she had read in our professor's book. It too is an excellent and informative class.

I don't know about other countries but it sounds like it is interpreted differently in each country that is part of the International Treaties, and also it is debated about so a bit confusing even within any given country.

I am not in the law field and I am a technical person by job and education, but take these as extra humanities to understand how the worlds around me work. I'm interested in human rights but my area of focus is in the high tech world. So I don't really know a lot about these things and took these classes as extras in the humanity area to learn a bit more outside my high tech area about human rights.

So I share that about the democratic law ranking interpretation for my US Constitution class in case it differs with those in other people's countries, to see how we might be the same, and how we might differ.