



Module Specification

International Human Rights Law

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Contents

Module Specification	1
Part 1: Information	2
Part 2: Description	2
Part 3: Teaching and learning methods	5
Part 4: Assessment.....	6
Part 5: Contributes towards	7

Part 1: Information

Module title: International Human Rights Law

Module code: UJGUPE-15-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2024-25

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

College: College of Business and Law

School: CBL Bristol Law School

Partner institutions: None

Field: Law Postgraduate (Programmes)

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: The International Human Rights Law module addresses subject matter of crucial importance to society. The module recognises that the primary goal/vision of human rights is to reduce/eliminate human suffering in the world. Human rights represent an “agenda for improving the world and bringing about a new one in which the dignity of each individual will enjoy secure international protection” (Moyn: 2010). However, many events across the globe directly threaten our shared globalised world and the shared values of human dignity and rights—from civil wars/armed

conflicts in different parts of the world (Africa/Asia/Middle East etc) to systematic violations of human rights by repressive regimes and violent non-state actors, the global/Europe refugee crisis, war of aggression (e.g Russia's invasion of Ukraine), perpetration of international core crimes that shock the conscience of humanity (genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity), terrorism, transnational organised crime, modern slavery, child labour, enforced disappearance, climate change etc. These are human rights issues of pressing importance in our world and in this module we shall explore them in detail. module is to provide LL.M International Law Students with a robust and comprehensive understanding of international human rights law both under the UN system and under regional systems (Europe/Africa/America/Asia). The module will offer an understanding of the history, philosophical foundations and development of international human rights law and explains why we have a system of international and regional human rights protection. We will dig deep into the philosophical, legal and political underpinnings of human rights and why human rights instruments exist. We will specifically examine the main sources of international human rights law and the international and regional mechanisms for protection of human rights. We will also take into account the rights of indigenous people in international law as well as the role of Human Rights NGOs and international institutions. We will also study the inextricable intersections and/or interconnections between human rights and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN AGENDA 2030).

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: In addition to the learning outcomes, on successful completion of this module students should have the ability to work in groups.

The main educational objective of this module is to provide LL.M International Law and Security Students with a robust and comprehensive understanding of international human rights law both under the UN system and under regional systems (Europe/Africa/America/Asia). The module will offer an understanding of the history, philosophical foundations and development of international human rights law and explains why we have a system of international and regional human rights protection. The module will dig deep into the philosophical, legal and political underpinnings of human rights and why human rights instruments exist. We will

specifically examine the main sources of international human rights law and the international and regional mechanisms for protection of human rights. We will also take into account the rights of indigenous people in international law as well as the role of Human Rights NGOs and international institutions. Moreover, given that NGOs are key actors for the protection of human rights at the international, regional and national levels.

Outline syllabus: The following is a list of topics which will be explored in the workshop session. The emphasis may shift where there is a shift in relative importance within the subject area. The list has been drawn broadly enough so that developments in the subject area can be taken into account.

Introduction to Human Rights

Theoretical and Philosophical Foundations of Human Rights

Int'l Human Rights Institutions and Legal Framework (Universal mechanisms for human rights protection. UN Charter and Treaty based rights regimes).

Regional Human Rights Institutions and Legal Framework (European, African and Latin American)

Tensions and challenges in human rights: Universalism/Cultural Relativism, Social and Economic Rights/ Civil and Political Rights, critique of human rights.

Human Rights, Environment and Climate Change I

Human Rights, Environment and Climate Change II

Women's Rights

Children's Rights

Justice, rights and the future: SDGs and Human Rights, Globalisation, Corporate

Human Rights, Human Rights and the Environment, pressures on the UDHR paradigm.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The main focus of teaching and learning on the taught LLM programme is through independent research and debate in the context of 2 hour weekly workshops. The workshop-based approach to teaching and learning is designed to enable the student to develop the independent research, analytical and reflective skills required for successful completion of a postgraduate level course. In line with this, the learning and teaching methods used in this module will ideally consist of lectures and student-centred workshops which may include scenario-based case studies, law workshop exercises, class presentations and independent study. The teaching and learning techniques/strategies are designed to specifically encourage accurate and authoritative analysis, evaluation and application of human rights legal materials from a theoretical, philosophical, normative and practical perspective. Lecture and workshop materials e.g., PPT slides and notes should be complemented by independent reading and research. Students will need to complete the necessary preparatory reading and study of any set case materials in advance of each workshop. From each workshop, the student will be expected to have developed a general mastery of the subject under consideration. In addition, students will be expected to contribute to structured analytical discussions, raise, critically assess and defend different points of view on controversial issues in class and to make presentations to the class on their own and in groups. Analytical skills and a critical theoretical approach to the subject are encouraged. A strong emphasis is placed on independent engagement with the materials and the questioning of assumptions concerning human rights as categories. Students should come prepared to be fully involved in lively debate and engagement with each other and the tutor.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 A critical understanding of the international framework, principles and concepts relating to international human rights protection

MO2 Sound knowledge and critical understanding of complex and specialised issues within the subject area – particularly, the theoretical and philosophical underpinnings of human rights law, the genesis of the institutional foundations of human rights protection

MO3 An ability to locate and understand international instruments and mechanisms relevant to the protection of human rights

MO4 A critical understanding of a range of controversies and tensions surrounding international protection of human rights

MO5 A critical understanding of research approaches and techniques used in the analysis of problems relating to international human rights law, drawing on different legal traditions

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 126 hours

Face-to-face learning = 24 hours

Total = 150

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/F6D05433-9357-5561-AB01-58D306AE3F1B.html?lang=en) via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/F6D05433-9357-5561-AB01-58D306AE3F1B.html?lang=en>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Learning outcomes are assessed by the written assessment, which require students to undertake independent research building on material covered in the workshop sessions.

Assessment questions set by the module team are designed to test students' understanding of the topics covered in the workshop sessions, the extent to which

they have engaged critically with complex problems as well as with the materials presented in the module and their ability to conduct independent research in relation to the topics covered. This assessment provides students with opportunities to present structured arguments, recognise problems and identify solutions.

Formative assessment opportunities are provided in workshops throughout the module.

Assessment tasks:**Written Assignment (First Sit)**

Description: Written coursework essay (maximum 2,500 words)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Written coursework essay (maximum 2500 words)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

International Law and Security LLM 2024-25

Environmental Law and Sustainable Development [Frenchay] LLM 2024-25

International Law [Frenchay] LLM 2024-25

International Law [Frenchay] LLM 2024-25

International Law [Frenchay] LLM 2023-24