

London South Bank
University

Module Guide

International Protection of Human Rights

LAW_6_IHR

School of Law & Social Science

2016-2017

Level 6

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MODULE DETAILS

Module Title:	International Protection of Human Rights
Module Level:	Level 6
Module Reference Number:	LAW_6_IHR
Credit Value:	20 CAT
Student Study Hours:	200
Contact Hours:	45
Private Study Hours:	155
Pre-requisite Learning (If applicable):	None
Co-requisite Modules (If applicable):	None
Course(s):	LLB (Hons)
Year and Semester	2016-2017, Semester 2
Module Coordinator:	Andy Unger
MC Contact Details (Email, Room)	ungerad@lsbu.ac.uk K221
Subject Area:	Law
Summary of Assessment Method:	100% CW
External Examiner appointed for module:	Janye Jeffcott Director of Students University of Law

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Students will study the International Protection of Human Rights in the context of specific countries and themes. Topics will introduce students to key topics such as the UN procedures and Human Rights Activism. Students will then research these topics in the context of a specific country (such as Myanmar, Nigeria and Pakistan) and theme (such as Fair Trial, Free Speech and Torture). Seminar discussion will be based on students' research on their selected country and theme. There will be an emphasis on developing effective strategies for combating human rights abuses. Assessment is by a single piece of Coursework.

AIMS OF THE MODULE

(a) to allow students to study the law and practice of International Human Rights Law;

(b) to allow students to analyse the cultural, economic, political and social background to specific human rights abuses in a selected foreign country;

(c) to allow students to analyse current strategies and procedures for the international protection of human rights in the context of specific human rights abuses in a selected foreign country;

(d) to allow students to analyse and evaluate the effectiveness of different strategies and procedures for the international protection of human rights;

(e) to develop students' Legal, Transferable and Practical skills and to develop their capacity to work independently.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Understanding

1. the key elements and general principles of International Human Rights Law.

Intellectual Skills

Students will develop their legal intellectual skills such that they are able to:

2. select and apply International Human Rights Law to specific human rights abuses in a selected foreign country.

3. analyse and evaluate actual and potential strategies and procedures for combating specific human rights abuses in a selected foreign country.

4. reason critically and argue effectively about International Human Rights issues, recognising alternative points of view and offering reasoned opinions supported by authority or evidence;

Practical Skills

Students will acquire and develop practical skills such that they are able to:

Communication Skills

To communicate ideas effectively and appropriately, both orally and in writing;
To read and understand technical legal materials;

IT Skills

To produce word-processed documents;
To carry out effective web-based research.

Transferable Skills

Students will acquire and develop transferable skills and values such that they are able to:

To plan and carry out an extended programme of independent study, analysing and evaluating the effectiveness of different strategies and procedures for the international protection of human rights in the context of specific human rights abuses in a selected foreign country;

To identify research questions and carry out research using a variety of media;

To plan their research, including setting priorities in terms of relevance and importance;

To plan and manage their work, including setting priorities in terms of importance and deadlines.

ASSESSMENT OF THE MODULE

One piece of coursework (100%), 6,000 words.

The Coursework mark contributes 100% of the final module mark. Students negotiate the subject of their coursework with the module tutors. The coursework will identify specific human rights abuses and their cultural, economic, political and social background. The coursework will analyse and evaluate actual and potential legal, political and diplomatic strategies and procedures to combat those abuses.

FEEDBACK

Feedback on the coursework will be recorded in writing. General feedback will be given on the Module VLE and one to one feedback can be obtained the following semester in feedback week.

INTRODUCTION TO STUDYING THE MODULE

Overview of the Main Content

Introduction

Introduction to the module (aims, method, syllabus, resources and research).
Introduction to International Law (custom and treaties, the relationship between International and Municipal law).

Mechanisms

UN System

UN Charter mechanisms.

UN Treaty Organs & Thematic mechanisms.

Evaluation of the UN procedures *

Regional, Bilateral & State mechanisms.

Strategies

Protection of Civil and Political Rights:

Peace, Truth, Reconciliation, Justice & Retribution

Impunity and the limits of Sovereignty

Protection of Second & Third Generation Rights:

Economic, Cultural and Social Rights;

The Right to Development

Activism

Human Rights Activism

Political and Diplomatic strategies *

Legal strategies *

* Lectures where outside speakers will be used, if possible.

Overview of Types of Classes

12 weekly 4 hour sessions with a break, comprising a mixture of lectures and workshops depending on the topics covered. In the second half of the course, once students have selected whether to write their coursework on Abortion or Euthanasia, students can elect which workshops to attend, although the materials discussed in relation to one debate are often relevant in relation to the other.

Importance of Student Self-Managed Learning Time

The module requires students to engage with academic articles in order to analyse and evaluate the current law on abortion and euthanasia and proposals for reform. All the key reading is available on the ML&E VLE and students should read the relevant materials for the first time before coming to class.

Employability

The aims and outcomes of this unit contribute to the development of the legal knowledge and skills that are required for legal professional qualification and which are relevant to many other careers in law and related fields.

THE PROGRAMME OF TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

The weekly lectures follow the main content of the syllabus described above. The seminars follow the structure of the coursework assessment and allow students to prepare drafts of each section of their coursework as the module progresses as follows:

Small Group Sessions

Selecting a Country/Theme. Identifying and discussing primary materials.

Discussing International Human Rights Standards in the context of the selected Countries.

Discussing UN mechanisms in the context of the selected Countries/Themes

Discussing Human Rights Activism and Legal, Political and Diplomatic strategies in the context of the selected Countries/Themes.

Review of draft coursework as a whole.

STUDENT EVALUATION

Last year, 100% of students agreed/strongly agreed that their experience of the module was good. 100% agreed/strongly agreed that the VLE materials were useful.

LEARNING RESOURCES

CORE READING:

P Alston & R Goodman, International Human Rights, 2012, OUP

OPTIONAL READING

J Rehman, International Human Rights Law, 2nd Edition, Pearson

R K M Smith, Textbook on International Human Rights, 6th Edition, OUP

Additional Reading:

A Cassese, International Law, 2nd Edition, OUP

A Cassese & P Gaeta, Cassese's International Criminal Law, 3rd Edition, OUP

M Evans, International Law, 4th Edition, OUP

Geoffrey Robertson, Crimes against Humanity, 2nd Edition, Penguin Books

Amnesty International <http://www.amnesty.org>

Human Rights Watch <http://www.hrw.org>

UN High Commission
for Human Rights <http://www.ohchr.org>

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