

Module Title	INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW	Date of Approval
Module Code	5LA517/6LA517	Pre-requisite None
Module Level	5/6	
Credit value	20	
Total Number of Learning Hours	200	
Key Words	International, Law, Human Rights, Case study	
Module Delivery Mode	Face to face	

Module Description

International Human Rights law is arguably one of the most dynamic, far reaching and successful areas of international law. Growing international concern about human rights abuses can be seen to stem from the anti-slavery movement in the early 19th Century through increased protection for the victims of war to modern day concerns arising from the aftermath of both World Wars. This being said certain areas of human rights protection remain controversial especially when behaviours are culturally entrenched. This module addresses the development of human rights protection through the consideration of a variety of international instruments and assessing their impact and efficacy in eradicating abuses. Through a series of case studies students will address areas of modern concern and assess the enforcement of human rights norms at both regional and international level.

Module Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:

At level 5

- Research, understand and apply relevant international law principles to a given theoretical proposition;
- Analyse a case study and evaluate and theorise about the efficacy of international law in giving relief to those affected by potential human rights violations.

At level 6

- Research, evaluate, critique and apply relevant international law principles to a given theoretical proposition;
- Critically analyse a case study, and critically evaluate and theorise about the efficacy of international law in giving relief to those affected by potential human rights violations.

Module Content

During the course of this module, students will acquire knowledge and an appreciation of:

- The development of international concern for human rights
- The nature of rights and the difficulties faced when taking cultural differences into account

- The role of the United Nations and other regional bodies in developing, implementing and enforcing human rights norms
- The specific nature and difficulties in protecting the rights of children and women
- Human rights protection at the beginning and end of life

Module Learning and Teaching Methods

The module will be delivered in a series of 3 hours seminars. During the course of the first 2 seminars students will be introduced to the theories behind human rights protection, the main organisations responsible for policy and enforcement and the primary instruments, both global and regional, of human rights protection. Students will also be asked to assess the place of cultural relativism in human rights protection through looking at real-life case studies. After having gained the fundamentals of the subject students will then have the opportunity to work together on a series of case studies over the next eight sessions when they will be expected to identify potential human rights issues, the appropriate human rights instruments, case authority and academic opinion and any relevant enforcement mechanisms available to the potential victims of human rights abuse. These case studies will take students through from issues affecting children through to the end of life and be based in different cultural contexts. Students will also be required to prepare a presentation on a directed area of study leading to a debate during the course of the module. The final session will be a summation of the efficacy of human rights protection in the global context.

Seminars	36
Guided independent study	164
Total	200

Scheduled learning and teaching activities: 18%
Guided independent study: 82%
Placement/study abroad: 0%

Module Assessment Method Coursework/Examination 100%

Assessment will consist of two elements, the first being a formative presentation when students will be required to participate fully in the preparation of a group presentation and the debate following. Secondly students will be able to select one of the case studies that have been worked on during the course of the semester for writing up in full and submitting for final grading.

Reading list

Key Texts

Robertson & Merrills, *Human Rights in the World* (4th edition, 1996) Manchester University Press
 Smith, *Textbook on International Human Rights Law* (2003) Oxford University Press
 Smith, *Text and Materials on International Human Rights* (2007) Routledge Cavendish

Essential texts

Ghandi, *International Human Rights Documents* (3rd edition, 2002) Blackstone Press
 Steiner & Alston, *International Human Rights in Context: Law, Politics & Morals* 3rd Ed (2008) Oxford
 Rehman, *International Human Rights Law, A Practical Approach* (2003) Longman Pearson
 Janis, Kay & Bradley, *European Human Rights Law, cases & materials* (2nd edition, 2000) Oxford University Press
 Joyner, *The United Nations and International Law* (1997) Cambridge University Press
 Mowbray, *Cases & Materials on the European Convention on Human Rights* (2001) Butterworths
 Ovey & White, *The European Convention on Human Rights* (3rd edition, 2002) Oxford University Press

Other recommended reading

The vast majority of UN based international Treaties relating to Human Rights can be found through the following web link. <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/>

Journals and reports

AJIL	American Journal of International Law
ASIL	(Proceedings of the) American Society of International Law
BYIL	British Yearbook of International Law
CMLR	Common Market Law Review
EHRLR	European Human Rights Law Review
EHRR	European Human Rights Reports
EJIL	European Journal of International Law
ELR	European Law Review
HJIL	Harvard Journal of International Law
HRCD	Human Rights Case Digest
HRLJ	Human Rights Law Journal
HRQ	Human Rights Quarterly
IHRR	International Human Rights Reports
ICLQ	International & Comparative Law Quarterly
IFL	International Family Law
ILM	International Legal Materials
KCLJ	Kings College Law Journal
MLR	Modern Law Review
NQHR	Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights
NJIL	Nordic Journal of International Law
OJLS	Oxford Journal of Legal Studies
PL	Public Law

Internet resources

United Nations

United Nations Human Rights WebPages: www.unhchr.ch

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF): www.unicef.org/

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO): www.unesco.org/

Europe

Council of Europe: www.coe.int

European Court of Human Rights: www.echr.coe.int

European Union: <http://europa.eu.int>.

Africa

Organisation of African Unity Homepage: www.undp.org/

The Americas

Inter-American Court of Human Rights: www.cidh.oas.org/

Inter-American Commission: www.cidh.oas.org/commission.

Non-governmental organisations

Amnesty International UK: www.amnesty.org.uk

Human Rights Watch: www.hrw.org/

Death Penalty Information Centre <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/>

Academic resources

American Society of International Law: www.asil.org/

IGC: Human Rights Internet Resources Collection: www.igc.org/igc/issues/hr.or.html

University of Minnesota Human Rights Library: www.umn.edu/humanrts/demo/htm/

Westlaw: www.westlaw.co.uk