COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department: Humanities & Social Sciences

Programme: International Relations

FHEQ **Level:**   5

Course Title: International Law and Human Rights

Course Code: INTR 5101

Total Hours: 160 (Lev 3-5) (4 US Credit)
Timetabled Hours: 45
Guided Learning Hours: 15
Independent Learning Hours: 100

Credit   16 UK CATS credits
8 ECTS credits
4 US Credits

Course Description:
This course enables students to investigate the international politics of law-making, compliance, and enforcement in various issue areas, and to consider how fragmentation and self-regulation impact upon the effectiveness of international law. The course highlights the intersection of human rights with modern challenges such as public health, national security, and environmental issues. Through critical analysis, students will evaluate the power and limitations of international law systems in protecting human rights and explore potential reforms for enhancing their effectiveness.

Prerequisites:
40 Credits

Aims and Objectives:
- To acquaint students with the structure and systems of public international law and its main actors, norms and institutions, with a focus on the realm of human rights and humanitarian law
- To explore how actors and institutions use international legal systems and norms to promote their political agenda and the limitations of this
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields (including work in government, international organisations, business, NGOs and the media) which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of the politics of international law and human rights
- To provide a framework to assist concerned citizens to think critically about issues that are of increasing importance in the 21st century

- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of literature and the development of both a concise writing style and the ability to present complex arguments orally

Programme Outcomes:
A5II; B5I; C5I; D5II

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:
https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/

Learning Outcomes:
By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:
- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of key theories and concepts in the field of human rights and public international law.
- Demonstrates the ability to develop critical responses to and a systematic and analytical understanding of international human rights and humanitarian law, and associated norms and institutions, within the broader structures of public international law.
- Demonstrates the ability to formulate and communicate arguments cogently, retrieve and generate information, and select appropriate criteria to evaluate sources and evidence.
- Demonstrates the ability to produce workplace-relevant analyses of international human rights issues.

Indicative Content:
Sources of public international law
- Rights, duties and immunities of states under international law
- Concepts, systems and norms of international human rights
- Main legal instrumental and institutions such as human rights conventions, the Geneva Conventions, refugee law, international and regional human rights tribunals, international criminal tribunals, the UN human rights system
- Politicisation and abuse of rights discourses and legal remedies
- Contemporary issues, for example ex-territorial management of migrants and refugees, use and abuse of derogation clauses for public health or national security, or human rights during armed conflicts

Assessment:
This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/

Teaching Methodology:
This course will be delivered face to face through a combination of lectures and interactive sessions. In addition to classroom activities, there are guided learning elements that are

tutor led and arranged through Blackboard. These activities can be asynchronous online sessions, flipped classrooms, set readings with discussion boards or set guest lectures for example. Set activities are monitored by the instructor to ascertain student engagement. Students are encouraged to prepare for class and to play an active part, to raise questions, following-up ideas and interact with a wide range of provided material.

Indicative Text(s):

- Bassiouni, M. C. (2023) *Crimes against humanity in international criminal law*. BRILL.
- Crawford, E. and Pert, A. (2024) *International humanitarian law*. Cambridge University Press.
- Freeman, M. (2022) *Human Rights*. Polity Press.
- Lattimer, M. and Sands, P. (eds.) (2018) *The grey zone: Civilian protection between human rights and the laws of war*. Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Mégret, F. and Alston, P. (eds.) (2020) *The United Nations and Human Rights: A Critical Appraisal*. OUP.
- Orakhelashvili, A. (2022) *Akehurst's modern introduction to international law*. Routledge.
- Pisillo-Mazzeschi, R. (2021) *International Human Rights Law: Theory and Practice*. Springer International Publishing.
- Smith, R. K. M. (2022) *International Human Rights Law*. Oxford University Press.

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
First edition	Nov 2024	