

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW		
MODULE CODE	LA4934 (L7)	CREDIT VALUE	20 UK CREDITS / <u>10 ECTS</u>
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF LAW		

MODULE AIMS

This module aims to offer an overview of the history, justifications, institutions and content of international human rights law, to examine the diverse legal, constitutional, philosophical, moral and political foundations of human rights, including their relationship with 'natural rights', liberal and social-democratic paradigms, to analyse and discuss the evolution of international law within the field of human rights protection in the post-World War 2 and post-Cold War eras, to develop an appreciation of some of the challenges posed by globalisation and environmental concerns for human rights, and to analyse possible future developments within this area of international law. Different categories and successive "generations" of human rights will be analysed, including the new and still contested category of "environmental rights". The emphasis will fall upon a discursive analysis of the above topics, which encourages students to further develop their critical and creative approaches to this subject, and ideally encourage further research interests within the area of international human rights law.

MODULE CONTENT

Indicative syllabus content:

- This module examines how the subject of human rights impacts upon governmental, regulatory and political activity within the European and international contexts.
- It addresses the impact of globalisation and the end of Cold-War bi-polarisation on the status and further development of human rights, including the claims that human rights have now become a universal entitlement of all citizens.
- It will address primary human rights instruments ranging from European and international treaties, UN conventions, governmental and NGO reports and judicial decisions.
- Throughout this interdisciplinary module, students will address the relationships that exist between human rights standards, international political processes and particular institutions.
- Among the key international human rights issues examined are:
 - History, justifications and institutions of international human rights law
 - First, second and third generations of rights
 - Substantive scope of international human rights law
 - Sceptics and critics of human rights

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this module a student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the foundations, development and evolution of international human rights protection.
 2. Distinguish between the different and on occasions competing approaches to human rights.
 3. Demonstrate an appreciation of the complex interactions between international human rights law on the one hand, and geo-politics, regional cultural traditions not founded upon any notion of 'rights', and the institutional enforcement of human rights on the other.
 4. Demonstrate knowledge of the main European and international legal instruments of human rights protection, and be able to analyse critically the main contentious issues within the recent trends and developments of human right law within the context of the international law, economics and geo-politics.
 5. Research, critically evaluate and present well-structured arguments in written and oral work.
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TEACHING METHODS

This module is organised into 2-hour weekly seminars. During each seminar, the tutor will deliver a short presentation and facilitate a discussion of critical issues within the said topic led by the students, either working in groups or individually. Some topics may be divided between two Seminars. Students will be expected to have independently researched the issues for discussion in each seminar and to come to seminars prepared to respond and participate in an open and active critical discussion.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through an individual presentation and a written assignment.

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English.