MODULE **DESCRIPTOR**

MODULE TITLE	FOUNDATIONS IN HUMAN RIGHTS		
MODULE CODE	LW1016 (L4)	**CREDIT VALUE**	20 UK CREDITS / 10 ECTS
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF LAW		

MODULE **AIMS**

This module is intended to introduce students to the various ways in which domestic, European and International law institutions and legal frameworks recognise and enforce human rights. It will discuss the historical and present role played by various international bodies, including the International Criminal Court, the UN and the European Court of Human Rights, and will discuss various procedural aspects, limitations and proposals for institutional reform. This institutional material will provide a background to wider debates. A range of broad issues that have arisen in debates over the nature, range, purpose and limits of recognised human rights. It will challenge students to enter into these debates in a fluent and informed way; to display skills in the analysis and interpretation of the issues; to demonstrate through seminar discussions their argumentation skills in developing and debating pertinent questions at a general level, and enhance their application skills in discussing the potential applicability of different models of human rights to varying social, economic and political contexts.

MODULE **CONTENT**

The material to be covered, which largely consists of questions and issues, is as follows:

- The legal frameworks: the various ways in which domestic, European and international law institutions and institutional processes and associated legal frameworks both recognise and enforce human rights
- The nature and jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court and the European Court of Human Rights.
- The institutional sources of human rights law.
- The establishment of the UN, its legal status and the functioning of its main organs, including the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and the International Court of Justice. The UN's role and efforts in maintaining human rights, peace and security.
- The range of international monitoring and supervision regimes including the major international treaties and bodies, protection of children, women and minorities, and the role of NGOs.
- The procedural aspects of bringing human rights claims before domestic, European and international bodies.
- The emergence of universal jurisdiction in the investigation of grave breaches of human rights in the wake of genocide (torture, genocide, sexual violence).
- Proposals for institutional reform to meet current limitations in the recognition and enforcement of human rights

INTENDED **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

1.	explain with examples the legal and political institutions which address different types of human rights issues and cases
2.	describe, discuss and evaluate the competing principles that allegedly underpin different models of human rights
3.	outline and explain the interaction between legal, moral and political factors in the interpretation and adjudication of human rights questions
4.	evaluate legal and political reforms for extending or reducing the scope of human rights measures
5.	summarise the development of different models for the recognition and application of human rights.

TEACHING METHODS

The module is delivered by means of weekly lectures and seminars. Seminar questions usually deal with miniature case studies covering the subject matter of the previous lecture. In this way, students gain experience of the practical applications of the theory of human rights law. Students are expected to prepare the case study prior to the seminar and to be prepared to participate in seminar discussions.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through a written assignment and a group presentation.