

## MODULE DESCRIPTOR

<b>MODULE TITLE</b>	<b>Human Rights in an European &amp; International Law Context</b>		
<b>MODULE CODE</b>	LW3010 (L6)	<b>CREDIT VALUE</b>	20 UK CREDITS / <u>10 ECTS</u>
<b>SCHOOL</b>	SCHOOL OF LAW		

### MODULE AIMS

This module aims to:

- Develop to a more advanced level knowledge and understanding of European and international human rights and its institutional recognition and enforcement.
- Critically analyse those different facets of European and International human rights that impact upon contemporary litigation, commercial, governmental, regulatory and political activity within domestic, European and international contexts.
- Critically evaluate the nature of the relationships that exist between European and international human rights standards, international political processes and particular institutions, including the UN Security Council, UN Human Rights Council, UN Human Rights Committee, ICJ, ICC, ICTY and ICTR and other ad hoc UN institutions whose remit includes the violation of international human rights.
- Consider the historical developments and political concerns which gave rise to the European and international protection of human rights, including the European Convention on Human Rights and the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Examine the diverse legal, constitutional, philosophical, moral and political foundations of human rights, including their relationship to the "natural rights", liberal and social-democratic paradigms.
- Analyse and discuss the evolution of European and international law within the field of human rights protection in the post WW2 and post-Cold War eras.
- Examine the role of the EU and UN in promoting and protecting a Human Rights agenda
- Discuss the challenges posed by globalisation and environmental concerns for human rights, and to analyse possible future developments within this area of international law.

### MODULE CONTENT

The module addresses the historical development, current status and further development of human rights, including the claims that human rights have now become a universal entitlement of all citizens regardless of gender, nationality, religion and ethnicity.

Human Rights at international law: institutional aspects, sources and enforcement of international human rights, including reform and repeal institutional process.

Environmental aspects of international human rights are addressed in-depth.

How does the subject of human rights impacts upon contemporary 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.

Development of the Human right agenda within the EU. Nexus of social rights and Human rights in the EU.

The development of human rights agenda within UN organisations including Security Council, Human Rights Council, Human Rights Committee, ICJ, ICC, ICTY and ICTR and other ad hoc UN institutions whose remit includes the violation of international human rights.

An overview of contrasting models of human rights: liberal, socio-economic and 'third wave' environmental concerns

The right not to be tortured: and the recent controversy over exporting suspects to face forms of torture abroad in legal black holes.

It will address other primary human rights instruments ranging from European and international treaties, UN conventions, governmental and NGO reports and judicial decisions.

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## **INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

1. Evaluate critically the impact of European and international human rights upon contemporary litigation, commercial, governmental, regulatory and political activity within domestic, European and international contexts.
2. Critically assess the relationship between human rights standards, international political processes and particular institutions
3. Discuss and evaluate the changing definitions and concepts of human rights both within the legal process and more generally and their theoretical and ideological underpinnings
4. Engage in argumentation concerning the status and validity of different categories and successive "generations" of human rights, including social rights and the new and still contested category of "environmental rights".

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## **TEACHING METHODS**

The module is based on a series of workshops for which students are required to undertake prior reading and come adequately prepared for workshop discussion.

The module will be delivered through a combination of lectures, workshops, seminars and possibly short student presentations

Students will study and discuss in seminars a range of primary human rights instruments ranging from European and international treaties, UN conventions, governmental and NGO reports and judicial decisions

The seminars will focus on specific issues within the law and practice of human rights. They are designed to provide a the possibility of an informed critical discussion of issues and debates within this subject, supported with sufficient background information and analysis necessary to facilitate informed evaluation and both independent and creative student learning. Classes will facilitate students' active engagement with this subject, through group discussions and presentations. 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 European and International human rights law. It is expected that at the end of this module students will be able to critically reflect upon the issues raised and competently participate in on-going debates within the human rights field. Throughout this interdisciplinary module, students will address the relationships that exist between human rights standards, international political processes and particular situations.

A topical case study of international criminal law relevant to human rights will be included.

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## **ASSESSMENT METHODS**

This module is assessed through a Written Assignment (75%) and a Plan (25%).

## **LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION**

English