Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution for Higher Education
PEOPLES' FRIENDSHIP UNIVERSITY OF RUSSIA
(RUDN University)

LAW INSTITUTE
Educational Division

COURSE SYLLABUS

Protection of Human Rights in the UN System
(Course title)

Recommended by the Didactic Council for the Education Field

40.04.01 Jurisprudence / Юриспруденция
(Code and Name of the Field of Education / Specialty)

Courses (modules) are Taught as Part of the Educational Program of Higher Education

International Protection of Human Rights
(name (profile/specialisation))

2022

1. COURSE GOAL

The aim of the course "Protection of Human Rights in the UN System" is to teach basic terminology and categories which are used in the international human rights law, basic human rights treaties etc. The main objective is to familiarize students with such issues as establishment and development of basic principles and norms of international human rights law, development, elaboration and adoption of key human rights treaties and the activities of the human rights treaty bodies, activities of main and subsidiary bodies of the United Nations, different suggestions on the improving the functioning of the UN human rights machinery, develop skills of unassisted analysis of international treaties and practical application of the knowledge received.

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course is aimed at building and enhancing the following target competencies (parts of competencies):

Table 2.1. List of target competencies (parts of competencies)

Шифр Code (UC, GPC, PC)	Компетенция Competence	Индикаторы достижения компетенции (в рамках данной дисциплины) Competence indicators
GPC-3	Able to interpret legal acts in a competent manner, including in situations where there are gaps and conflicts of law norms	GPC 3.2. Has skills in interpreting legal acts, including in situations where there are gaps.
		GPC 3.3. Provides qualified explanations of the content and application of legal norms.
PC-6	Able to give qualified legal advice in specific areas of international legal regulation	PC-6.1. Aware of the specifics and methodology of advising in specific areas of international law regulation.

3. COURSE IN ACADEMIC PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The course belongs to the mandatory part of Block 1 of the curriculum.
As part of the curriculum, students also study other courses and/or internships that contribute to the achievement of expected learning outcomes.

Table 3.1. The list of components of the Educational Program of Higher Education that contribute to the achievement of the expected results of the development of the course

Шифр Code Code (UC, GPC, PC)	Наименование компетенции Competence	Предшествующие дисциплины/модули, практики* Previous courses/internships*	Последующие дисциплины/модули, практики* Subsequent courses/internships*
GPC-3	Able to interpret legal acts in a competent manner, including in situations where there	Philosophy of Law / Философия права Comparative Law Research /	The Right to Health in International Law / Международно-правовые основы права на здоровье

Шифр Code Code (UC, GPC, PC)	Наименование компетенции Competence	Предшествующие дисциплины/модули, практики* Previous courses/internships*	Последующие дисциплины/модули, практики* Subsequent courses/internships*
	are gaps and conflicts of law norms	Сравнительное правоведение	Internship / Производственная практика, в т.ч. преддипломная
PC-6	Able to give qualified legal advice in specific areas of international legal regulation		Environmental Protection and Human Rights / Защита экологических прав человека International Labour Rights in the Global Economy / Международное трудовое право и глобальная экономика Human Rights, SDGs and Challenges of the XXI Century / Права человека, Цели в области устойчивого развития и вызовы XXI века International Business and Human Rights / Международный бизнес и права человека Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Rights Protection / Защита прав коренных народов и меньшинств International Humanitarian Law / Международное гуманитарное право

* - filled in based on the competency matrix

4. COURSE WORKLOAD AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Course workload is 3 credits (108 academic hours)

*Table 4.1. Types of academic activities for **full-time** education*

Types of academic activities	TOTAL, academic hours	Semester / Module			
		1	2	3	4
Classroom learning, academic hours	*32*				*32*
including:					
Lectures (LC)	-				-
Lab work (LW)	-				-

Types of academic activities		TOTAL, academic hours	Semester / Module			
			1	2	3	4
Seminars (workshops/tutorials) (S)		32				32
Self-study (ies), academic hours		*72*				*72*
Evaluation and assessment (exam or pass/fail grading)		*4*				*4*
Course Workload	academic hours	**108**				**108**
	credits	**3**				**3**

Table 4.2. Types of academic activities for __part-time__ education*

Types of academic activities		TOTAL, academic hours	Semester / Module			
			1	2	3	4
Classroom learning, academic hours						
including:						
Lectures (LC)						
Lab work (LW)						
Seminars (workshops/tutorials) (S)						
Self-study (ies), academic hours						
Evaluation and assessment (exam or pass/fail grading)						
Course Workload	academic hours					
	credits					

* - must be completed in case of implementation of the program in part-time form

Table 4.3. Types of academic activities for extramural form of study

Types of academic activities		TOTAL, academic hours	Semester / Module			
			1	2	3	4
Classroom learning, academic hours						
including:						
Lectures (LC)						
Lab work (LW)						
Seminars (workshops/tutorials) (S)						
Self-study (ies), academic hours						
Evaluation and assessment (exam or pass/fail grading)						
Course Workload	academic hours					
	credits					

* - must be completed in case of implementation of the program in extramural of study

5. COURSE UNITS AND CONTENTS

Table 5.1. The content of the course and types of academic activities

Course Units / Sections	Topics	Type of academic activity*
Section 1. Human rights in the history of international relations and international law	Topic 1.1. The notion of human rights. The origins of human rights. Classification of human rights. Generations of human rights. National law on protection of human rights and international human rights law: interdependence and interrelation.	S
	Topic 1.2. Normative consolidation of human rights in international legal acts within the framework of the League of Nations. League of Nations minority protection system. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).	S
Section 2. UN Charter and the principle of respect for and protection of human rights. International Bill of Human Rights. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966 (ICCPR)	Topic 2.1. The UN Charter: drafting and adoption. Purposes and principles of the Charter. Binding nature of the UN Charter provisions.	S
	Topic 2.2. International Bill of Human Rights: a) History of adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, and its significance for the development of international law. Legal Content. b) History of adoption of the ICCPR and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966 (ICESCR). Basic civil and political rights in the ICCPR. Human Rights Committee as monitoring body of the ICCPR. Optional Protocols to the ICCPR.	S
Section 3. International Bill of Human Rights: legal content. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966 (ICESCR)	Topic 3.1. International Bill of Human Rights: Economic, social and cultural rights in the system of main human rights. The list of economic, social and cultural rights enshrined in the ICESCR. Obligations imposed by the Covenant on State Parties.	S
	Topic 3.2. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as a monitoring body of the ICESCR. Adoption of the 2008 Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.	S
Section 4. The International Conferences on Human Rights and their outcomes	Topic 4.1. International Conference on Human Rights, Teheran, 1968. Final Act of the International Conference on Human Rights, Teheran, 1968. World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 1993. Millennium Summit, 2000. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Post 2015 agenda. Sustainable development goals.	S

Course Units / Sections	Topics	Type of academic activity*
Section 5. The competence of the principal organs of the UN and of the specialized agencies of the UN to protect human rights	Topic 5.1. The main UN bodies: status and powers in the field of human rights (General Assembly, Security Council, ECOSOC, ICJ, Secretariat).	S
	Topic 5.2. UN specialized agencies in the human rights protection system (human rights protection within: UNESCO, WIPO, WHO, ILO, UN Specialized Financial Institutions).	S
Section 6. The competence of the subsidiary human rights organs of the UN	Topic 6.1. Activities of the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. Legal and political reasons for the reform of the UN human rights mechanism.	S
	Topic 6.2. Powers and activities of the UN Human Rights Council and its Advisory Committee. Universal periodic Review mechanism. The procedure for consideration of individual complaints.	S
	Topic 6.3. United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.	S
Section 7. Core international human rights treaties and their monitoring mechanisms - human rights treaty bodies	Topic 7.1. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol. The Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.	S
Section 8. Responsibility for violations of human rights	Topic 8.1. International crimes: concept and types. International Criminal Court. Concept "Responsibility to protect." Responsibility of States for human rights violations	S
	Topic 8.2. International fact-finding mechanisms dealing with human rights violations.	S
	Topic 8.3. Extraterritorial application of human rights. Business and human rights.	S
Section 9. National mechanisms for the protection of human rights	Topic 9.1. Provisions of international human rights instruments in the national legal systems. Domestic remedies. National human rights institutions and the 1993 Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions	S

Course Units / Sections	Topics	Type of academic activity*
	The role of NGOs in the promotion and protection of human rights at the national level.	

6. CLASSROOM EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

Table 6.1. Classroom Equipment and Technology Support Requirements

Classroom for Academic Activity Type	Classroom Equipment	Specialized hardware and software (if necessary)
Lecture	Classroom for lectures, equipped with a set of specialized furniture; a set of devices including portable multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection.	Multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection. Software: Office 365 (MS Office, MS Teams), Chrome
Lab	Classroom for lab work, group and individual consultations, evaluation and assessment, equipped with a set of specialized furniture; a set of devices including portable multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection.	Multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection. Software: Office 365 (MS Office, MS Teams), Chrome
Seminars	Classroom for seminars, group and individual consultations, evaluation and assessment, equipped with a set of specialized furniture; a set of devices including portable multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection.	Multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection. Software: Office 365 (MS Office, MS Teams), Chrome
Computer classroom	Computer classroom for academic activity, group and individual consultations, evaluation and assessment, equipped with a set of specialized furniture; a set of devices including portable multimedia projector, 30 personal computers, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection.	Multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection. Software: Office 365 (MS Office, MS Teams), Chrome
Self-studies Classroom	Classroom for Self-studies, equipped with a set of specialized furniture; a set of devices including portable multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection.	Multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection. Software: Office 365 (MS Office, MS Teams), Chrome
Courtroom	Classroom for court hearing simulation equipped with a set of specialized furniture; a	Multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen,

Classroom for Academic Activity Type	Classroom Equipment	Specialized hardware and software (if necessary)
	set of devices including portable multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection.	stable wireless Internet connection. Software: Office 365 (MS Office, MS Teams), Chrome

* - It is necessary to specify a classroom for self-study of students

7. RECOMMENDED SOURCES FOR COURSE STUDIES

Main reading (sources):

1. De Schutter, O. International Human Rights Law: Cases, Materials, Commentary / ed. by O. De Schutter. – 3rd ed. – Cambridge University Press, 2019.
2. Alston, P., Goodman, R. International Human Rights. The Successor to International Human Rights in Context: Law, Politics and Morals. Text and Materials / ed. by P. Alston, R. Goodman. – Oxford University Press, 2013.

Additional (optional) reading (sources):

3. Abashidze A. Role of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in implementation and development of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms // Вестник Российского университета дружбы народов. Серия: юридические науки. - М: РУДН, 2012, №1. - С. 185-194.
4. Abashidze A. The Complementary Role of General Comments in Enhancing the Implementation of Treaty Bodies' Recommendations and Views (the Example of CESCR) // New Challenges for the UN Human Rights Machinery. What Future for the UN Treaty Body System and the Human Rights Council Procedures? / Edited by: M. Cherif Bassiouni, William A. Schabas - Antwerp: Intersentia Publishers, 2011. - С. 137-148.
5. Egan, S. Strengthening the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Body System / S. Egan // Human Rights Law Review. – 2013. – Vol. 13 (2). – P. 209–243.
6. Egan, S. The UN Human Rights Treaty System: Law and Procedure / S. Egan. – Dublin: Bloomsbury, 2011. – 524 p.
7. Fabrizio Marella. The human right to water and ICSID arbitration: two sides of a same coin or an example of fragmentation of international law? // Актуальные проблемы современного международного права: Материалы ежегодной межвузовской научно-практической конференции. Москва, 9-10 апреля 2010 г. Часть II / Под ред. А.Х. Абашидзе, М.Н. Копылова, Е.В. Киселевой. - М: РУДН, 2011. - С. 11-42.
8. Felice, D.G. A voice not an echo: universal periodic review and the UN treaty body system / D.G. Felice // Human rights law review. – 2007. – Vol. 7 (1). – P. 109–139.
9. Kjaerum, M. State Reports // International Human Rights Monitoring Mechanisms. Essays in Honour of Jakob Th.Moeller / M. Kjaerum; ed. by A. Gudmundur et al. – 2nd revised. – The Hague–Boston–London: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2009. – P. 17–24.
10. Koneva A. Challenges facing the human rights treaty body system // Вестник Российского университета дружбы народов. Серия: юридические науки. - М: РУДН, 2014, №1. - С. 245-255.
11. New Challenges for the UN Human Rights Machinery. What Future for the UN Treaty Body System and the Human Rights Council Procedures? / Edited by: M. Cherif Bassiouni, William A. Schabas - Antwerp: Intersentia Publishers, 2011.

12. Schabas, W.A. On the Binding Nature of the Findings of the Treaty Bodies // New Challenges for the UN Human Rights Machinery. What Future for the UN Treaty Body System and the Human Rights Council Procedures? / W.A. Schabas; ed. by M.Ch. Bassiouni, W.A. Schabas. – Antwerp: Intersentia Publishers, 2011. – P. 97–107.
13. Smith, Rh.K.M. Textbook on International Human Rights / Rh.K.M. Smith – 6th ed. – Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014. – 448 p.
14. Surya P. Subedi. The Effectiveness of the UN Human Rights System. Reform and the Judicialisation of Human Rights System / ed. by Surya P. Subedi. – Routledge, 2017.
15. The Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights. A commentary / edited by M. Langford, B. Porter, R. Brown, J. Rossi. Pretoria University Press, 2014.
16. The United Nations and Human Rights: A Critical Appraisal / Eds.: Frédéric Mégret, Philip Alston. – 2nd ed. – Oxford University Press, 2020.
17. Tomuschat, C. Human Rights: Between Idealism and Realism / Ed. by C. Tomuschat. – 3rd ed. – Oxford University Press, 2014.
18. UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies / Eds.: Helen Keller, Universität Zürich, Geir Ulfstein. - Cambridge University Press, 2012.

Internet-(based) sources:

1. Electronic libraries with access for RUDN students
- RUDN Electronic library system http://lib.rudn.ru/MegaPro/Web
- Electronic library system «University Library online» http://www.biblioclub.ru
- Electronic Library «URAIT» http://www.biblio-online.ru
- Electronic library system «Student. Consultant»www.studentlibrary.ru
- Electronic library system «Lan» http://e.lanbook.com/
- Electronic library system "Troitskyi most"

2. Databases and search engines:
- Electronic Legal and Regulatory Documentation Fund http://docs.cntd.ru/
- Search system Yandex https://www.yandex.ru/
- Search system Google https://www.google.ru/
- SCOPUS http://www.elsevierscience.ru/products/scopus/

UN Audiovisual Library of International Law (http://legal.un.org/avl/), The Dag Hammarskjöld Library (http://digitallibrary.un.org/), Springer (https://rd.springer.com/).

* - Learning toolkits for self-studies in the RUDN Learning materials for self-studies on the relevant course pages in TUIS

8. ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION TOOLKIT

Mid-Term Assessment and Evaluation Toolkit, Assessment and Grading Criteria are presented in the Appendix to this Course Syllabus

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