

PEOPLES' FRIENDSHIP UNIVERSITY OF RUSSIA

(RUDN University)

Law Institute

Department of International Law

Recommended by methodological council

COURSE PROGRAMME

HUMAN RIGHTS, SDGS AND CHALLENGES OF THE XXI CENTURY

Specialty "Jurisprudence"

40.04.01, Master Degree

"International Protection of Human Rights"

Goals and objectives of course

The main purpose of the course is to make students acquainted with the categorical apparatus that allows to describe the human rights, SDGs and challenges of the XXI century; thereupon, to introduce students various sources of regulatory and doctrinal nature; to give an idea of the various legal remedies and observance of human rights at national and international levels. In the presentation of the course the basic concepts of the public international law, the international human rights law and the international environmental law are used.

Position of course in *curriculum*

The course shows the formation and development stages of such area as protection of human rights and SDGs. The course is delivered as subject to be selected in second semester. The volume of the course is 3 ESTC credits.

№	Competences	Previous disciplines	Subsequent disciplines
Professional competences			
1	the ability to competently apply legal acts in specific areas of legal activities, to implement the norms of substantive and procedural law in professional activities (PC-2)	The Right to Health in International Law International Labour Rights in the Global Economy	African System of Human Rights Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Rights Protection International Humanitarian Law
2	able to carry out a comprehensive legal analysis of legally significant situations of varying degrees of complexity with the development of independent conclusions and practical proposals (PC-3)	The Right to Health in International Law International Labour Rights in the Global Economy	African System of Human Rights Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Rights Protection International Humanitarian Law
3	able to draw up an expert opinion reflecting the progress and results of the	The Right to Health in International Law International Labour Rights	African System of Human Rights Indigenous Peoples and

	study on the issues raised by the initiator of the expert task (PC-4)	in the Global Economy	Minorities Rights Protection International Humanitarian Law
4	able to give qualified legal opinions and advice in specific areas of legal activity within the framework of the profile of the educational program (PC-5)	The Right to Health in International Law International Labour Rights in the Global Economy	African System of Human Rights Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Rights Protection International Humanitarian Law

Requirements for the results of the course

The graduate should have the following professional competences (PC):

the ability to competently apply legal acts in specific areas of legal activities, to implement the norms of substantive and procedural law in professional activities (PC-2);

able to carry out a comprehensive legal analysis of legally significant situations of varying degrees of complexity with the development of independent conclusions and practical proposals (PC-3);

able to draw up an expert opinion reflecting the progress and results of the study on the issues raised by the initiator of the expert task (PC-4);

able to give qualified legal opinions and advice in specific areas of legal activity within the framework of the profile of the educational program (PC-5).

As a result, student must:

To know:

- The degree of negative impact of globalization on the state of human rights;
- The basic theoretical problems of modern international law of human rights;
- Ways and means to prevent, overcome and resolve international legal problems of a global nature, adversely affecting the international legal order.

To be able to:

- Free to operate the basic categorial apparatus;
- Assess the effectiveness of the UN chief to address the problems within their competence;
- To propose concrete steps for the application of regulatory and institutional capacity of the UN system to resolve global problems in the framework of SDGs;
- Specify the path to improve the national legal resources on the implementation of international commitments of the national legal system.

Be skilled in:

- Work with the system of websites UN, the UN Library, UN University, UN specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations;
- Work with international legal acts adopted on important aspects of maintaining international peace and security;
- Analysis of recent court decisions and the International Court of Justice of the European Court of Human Rights, the legal community perceived ambiguously.

The volume of course and types of activities

Type	Total hours	Module	
			3
Total classes workload	18		18
Lectures			
Classes	18		18
Independent work	90		90
Volume, hours	108		108
Volume, credits	3		3

Contents of course**PART I. SDGS AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

Definitions of “development” and “sustainable development”. The UN’s approaches to the classification of developing countries. Classifications of countries. Criteria for defining developing countries. Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs). Activities of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. Challenges for developing countries on their path to sustainable development. International support measures of developing countries. Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by developing countries.

PART II. HUMAN RIGHTS, SDGS AND MIGRATION

1. What human rights are migrants’ human rights? What is the legal basis for the human-rights prospective on migration?
2. What human rights are incorporated in the SDGs? How are they relevant for migrants?

3. What are arguments *pro et contra* on the contribution of the SDGs and GCM on the protection of migrants?

The topic invites to analysis of interrelations emerging, existing and evolving between the fields of human rights protection, achievement of SDGs and international legal governance of migration. The human rights perspective stresses the applicability of basic human rights to migrants, as well as duties and responsibilities of states in this respect. Additional value to the commitments of states is conveyed by the SDGs as the latter touch upon migration issues from the human rights-based angle in the majority of aspects, too. However, the threat is that the international cooperation moves from the legally binding framework to nonjusticiable forms leaving the real situation with human rights of migrants with no progress.

PART III. CLIMATE CHANGE, DISASTERS, AND SDGS

Disasters triggered by natural, biological and technological hazards, and further exacerbated by climate extremes and slow onset events, annually affect a growing number of people, ecosystems and economies. From 2005 to 2015, disasters caused usd 1.4 trillion in damage, killed 700,000 and affected 1.7 billion people. economic losses are rising, and climate change is increasing the frequency and magnitude of a range of climate-related hazards. it is estimated that by 2050, the number of people in urban areas exposed to cyclones will increase from 310 million to 680 million people, while the number of people at risk of major earthquakes will increase from 370 million to 870 million. Without significant investment in resilience-building, these impacts threaten to not only decelerate but in extreme cases derail progress towards achieving the sustainable development goals (sdgs) and realizing the 2030 agenda. Progress towards sustainable development and peaceful societies is undermined by natural, biological and technological hazards that are intensified by persistent risk drivers such as climate variability and change, inequality, poverty, gender inequality, demographic pressures, unplanned urbanization and weak governance. the rapid spread and unprecedented global impact of covid-19 has demonstrated how disasters create ripple effects throughout the systems that hold societies together and drive development. even in the absence of a major disaster, accumulating and co-existing risks can unleash cascading impacts across sectors, triggering crises with devastating impact on those already left furthest behind. managing climate and disaster risks in conflict and displacement situations becomes particularly important to prevent exacerbation of vulnerabilities and erosion of resilience. Enhancing disaster resilience, preventing climate and disaster-related risks, and protecting those left furthest behind require moving beyond business as usual and engaging all of society in climate and disaster risk management. The global assessment report on disaster risk reduction 2015 concluded that annual global investment of usd 6 billion in appropriate disaster risk management strategies would generate total benefits in terms of risk

reduction of usd 360 billion. as demonstrated by the inclusion of the sendai framework for disaster risk reduction and the paris agreement in the 2030 agenda, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation are vital strategies for achievement of the sdgs these strategies, however, cannot be pursued in siloes and must be applied across the 2030 agenda to leverage existing sectoral funding and unlock public and private investment in climate and disaster risk management at all levels of society. The un sustainable development cooperation framework provides an opportunity for the united nations development system to demonstrate the value of climate- and disaster risk-informed development to accelerate sdg progress in the decade of action. The un prevention agenda, the sendai framework all-of-society approach, national climate commitments, and the real-time analytical function of the common country analysis all create entry points for risk-informing the cooperation frameworks and pursuing national and local partnerships that unleash capacities and financing. This guidance note helps un country teams (uncts) in formulating and implementing cooperation frameworks that support countries, communities and people in using climate and disaster risk management approaches to build disaster resilience. It is one among a larger library of supporting documents to the cooperation framework guidance, and is best read alongside the cooperation framework companion package. this guidance note supplements the un common guidance on helping build resilient societies by providing guidance on how to address climate and disaster risk as one of many dimensions to resilience, within the specific context of the cooperation framework cycle.

PART IV. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW AND SDGS

This topic addresses the fundamental issues related to economic cooperation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The economy is the basis for achieving any of the Goals. We will consider the cooperation of states and other subjects of international law, what role is made by the private sector, in particular, transnational corporations. The importance of foreign investment in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals will be considered in a separate line.

PART V. REDUCING INEQUALITY AND SDGS

Problem of inequalities in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; objectives for achieving Goal 10; The Addis Ababa Action Agenda; inequalities and responses to them in accordance with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda; review of state practice in achieving the SDGs; the global indicator framework developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators; collection of statistical data in the Russian Federation; Rosstat indicators for Goal 10; combating inequality between states; difficulties in achieving Goal 10; measures to achieve Goal 10 in the Russian Federation;

PART VI. HEALTH, HUMAN RIGHTS AND SDGS

Ensuring healthy lifestyles and promoting well-being for all at all ages are certainly essential ingredients for sustainable development. This goal encompasses specific challenges that governments need to achieve to fully implement SDG 3. Much more effort is required to fully eradicate a wide range of diseases and address the many and varied emerging and long-standing health challenges. Funding needs to be strengthened in areas such as sanitation and hygiene, access to health services, and air pollution education, which will help save millions of lives. SDG 3 recognizes the close relationship between health and development that underpins an ambitious, comprehensive plan of action for people, planet and prosperity, and to tackle the inequities that underlie poor health and development outcomes. SDG 3 seeks to ensure health and well-being for all, including states committed to ending the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other infectious diseases by 2030. Achieving universal health coverage and ensuring access to safe and effective medicines and vaccines for all is an important SDG 3 target, and supporting vaccine research and development and expanding access to affordable medicines is an important part of this process.

PART VII. ENERGY AND SDGS

The world is making progress towards Goal 7, with encouraging signs that energy is becoming more sustainable and widely available. Access to electricity in poorer countries has begun to accelerate, energy efficiency continues to improve, and renewable energy is making impressive gains in the electricity sector. Nevertheless, more focused attention is needed to improve access to clean and safe cooking fuels and technologies for 3 billion people, to expand the use of renewable energy beyond the electricity sector, and to increase electrification in sub-Saharan Africa. The Energy Progress Report provides global dashboard to register progress on energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy. It assesses the progress made by each country on these three pillars and provides a snapshot of how far we are from achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals targets.

PART VIII. INTERNATIONAL SPACE LAW AND SDGS

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 for the international community has now become a priority on the agenda. All spheres of human activity are covered by 17 SDGs and 169 objectives, for the implementation of which international and national potentials are mobilized, including space activities, regulated by international space law and national legislation of states. This topic is devoted to the study of the role of international space law in achieving the SDGs that regulate issues related to the use of space technology and the application of space technologies.

Sections of Course and Education forms

Sections	Lectures	Classes	Independent work	Total hours
1		4	8	10
2		2	8	10
3		2	8	10
4		2	9	11
5		2	9	11
6		2	9	11
7		2	9	11
8		2	9	11

Technical equipment

Inter-University Resource Center for Human Rights Master Studies (office 365), OHCHR database, Oxford Journals database, desktop computers, laptop PCs, a bookbinding machine, a projector with a screen, a magnetic board, a flip chart, a laminating machine and a multifunction device.

Additional resources

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

Bibliography

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2. Boyle Alan. Human Rights or Environmental Rights? A Reassessment' // 18 Fordham Environmental Law Review. 2007. P. 471–511.
3. Donald K. Anton, Dinah L. Shelton. Environmental Protection and Human Rights. Cambridge University Press, 2011.
4. Environmental Rights. The Development of Standards / ed. By Stephen J. Turner, Dinah L. Shelton, Jona Razzaque, Owen McIntyre, James R. May. Cambridge University Press,2019.
5. Environmental Law and Justice in Context / ed. by Jonas Ebbesson and Phoebe Okowa. Cambridge University Press, 2009.
6. Hayward Tim. Constitutional Environmental Rights. Oxford University Press, 2004.
7. Hiskes Richard P. The Human Right to a Green Future. Environmental Rights and Intergenerational Justice. Cambridge University Press, 2009.

8. International Environmental Law Reports. Volume 3, Human Rights and Environment / Edited by Cairo A. R. Robb. Cambridge University Press, 2001.

9. Merrills J. Environmental Rights // in Oxford Handbook of international environmental law. D. Bodansky, J. Brunnée and E. Hey eds, 2007.

Guidelines on the organization of the course:

Lectures. Oral systematic and coherent presentation of the material by section discipline. Lectures are held with the support of multimedia and audiovisual and presentation. Classes. The form of training workshops in which students with the assistance of a teacher discussing the reports, reports, essays and other forms of independent work. Seminars are held in the following forms: discussion of lecture material and questions for practical training, analysis and discussion of scientific papers, a list which is contained in this program, and performance with an analytical report on them. Methodological model of the learning process. In framework of classes the following techniques and methods: survey, discussion, interactive. Independent work. In a broad sense, the independent work of master should be understood as the set of all self-employment in the absence of trained teachers and in contact with him in the classroom and beyond (including during the training sessions). Here and also include working with primary sources: note taking, oral presentation with an analysis of the source. Forms of control. Under the two forms of control means in the form of certification testing, writing essays.

Evaluation

Materials for assessing the level of the educational materials of the course (evaluation materials), including questions on the topics of the course, concepts, roles and expected result for each task, examples of test tasks, an example of a hypothetical case, topics of reports / abstracts / term papers are developed in full and are available to students on the course page on system.rudn.ru.

Author

Associate Professor of the Department of
International Law, Candidate of Legal Sciences



A. Solntsev

Programme supervisor

Professor of the Department of International Law,
Doctor of Legal Sciences



N. Emelyanova

Head of the Department of International Law,
doctor of legal sciences, professor



A. Abashidze