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**Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution of Higher Education
PEOPLES' FRIENDSHIP UNIVERSITY OF RUSSIA NAMED AFTER PATRICE
LUMUMBA
RUDN University**

Law Institute

educational division (faculty/institute/academy) as higher education programme developer

COURSE SYLLABUS

Human Rights Treaty Bodies

course title

Recommended by the Didactic Council for the Education Field of:

40.04.01 Jurisprudence

field of studies / speciality code and title

**The course instruction is implemented within the professional education programme
of higher education:**

International Protection of Human Rights

higher education programme profile/specialisation title

1. COURSE GOAL (s)

The main goal of the present course “Human rights treaty bodies” is to contribute to the students’ knowledge about the place, role and importance of the human rights treaty body system in the universal human rights system. The objectives of the course are to introduce the readers to the norms, principles and institutes of the modern international human rights law, which define the organization and activities of the human rights treaty bodies whose aim is to monitor the implementation of the obligations undertaken by State parties to the core international human rights treaties. Within the course the students will get familiar with the core international human rights treaties, initial and periodic reports of States parties, individual complaints case law materials, national legislation of the States and national protection mechanisms, scientific works of international lawyers, and documents adopted by treaty bodies within their respective competence.

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR LEARNING OUTCOMES

Mastering the course is aimed at the Master’s students’ formation of the following competencies (part of competencies):

Table 2.1. List of competences that students acquire through the course study

Competence code	Competence descriptor	Competence formation indicators (within this course)
GPC-6	Able to ensure compliance with the principles of legal ethics, including taking measures to prevent corruption and suppress corruption (other) offences	OPC-6.1. Knows the specifics of ethical norms in professional legal activity;
		OPC-6.3. Has systematic skills in ensuring compliance with the principles of legal ethics, including taking measures to prevent corruption and suppress corruption (other) offences.
		GPC-6.2. Ensures compliance with the principles of ethics in specific types of legal activity, including taking measures to prevent corruption and suppress corruption (other) offences;
PC-3	Able to draft individual provisions or relatively exhaustive drafts of international legal acts (international treaty; final act of an international conference or summit; resolution for adoption by international organisations; communiqué; joint statement, etc.) using modern achievements of international law in general and its individual branches, taking into account requirements of the Russian Constitution and basic principles and norms of modern international law, as well as with application of effective international means	PC-3.1. Able to identify the relevance and need to regulate certain areas of international relations and imminent threats to the international community in order to prevent them and justify the application of existing approaches and concepts to improve efficiency in rule-making activities;
		PC-3.2. Knows the international legal and conceptual framework and specifics of the process of drafting international legal acts in various branches and areas of regulation of modern international law;

3. COURSE IN HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The course refers to the core/variable/elective* component of (B1) block of the higher educational programme curriculum.

* - Underline whatever applicable.

Within the higher education programme students also master other (modules) and / or internships that contribute to the achievement of the expected learning outcomes as results of the course study.

Table 3.1. The list of the higher education programme components/disciplines that contribute to the achievement of the expected learning outcomes as the course study results

Competence code	Competence descriptor	Previous courses/modules*	Subsequent courses/modules *
GPC-6	Able to ensure compliance with the principles of legal ethics, including taking measures to prevent corruption and suppress corruption (other) offences.	Philosophy of Law / Философия права	Educational Internship (Teaching) / Учебная практика (педагогическая) Internship / Производственная практика, в т.ч. преддипломная
PC-3	Able to draft individual provisions or relatively exhaustive drafts of international legal acts (international treaty; final act of an international conference or summit; resolution for adoption by international organisations; communiqué; joint statement, etc.) using modern achievements of international law in general and its individual branches, taking into account requirements of the Russian Constitution and basic principles and norms of modern international law, as well as with application of effective international means.	International Law and Development / Международное право и развитие (актуальные проблемы)	Externship and Pre-Degree Internship / Производственная практика, в т.ч. преддипломная

* - filled in based on the competency matrix

4. COURSE WORKLOAD AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

The total workload of the course is 4 credits (144 academic hours).

*Table 4.1. Types of academic activities during the periods of higher education programme mastering (**full-time training**) **

Types of academic activities	Total academic hours	Semester / training modules			
		5	6	7	8
<i>Classroom learning, academic hours</i>	36	36			
including:					
Lectures (LC)	-	-			
Lab work (LW)	-	-			
Seminars (workshops/tutorials) (S)	36	36			

Types of academic activities		Total academic hours	Semester / training modules			
			5	6	7	8
<i>Self-study (ies), academic hours</i>		99	99			
<i>Evaluation and assessment (exam or pass/fail grading)</i>		9	9			
Course Workload	academic hours	144	144			
	credits	4	4			

5. COURSE CONTENTS

Table 5.1. Course contents and academic activities types

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Topic Contents	Academic activities types
Section 1. Conceptual and normative basis of the work of the treaty bodies in the institutional human rights system	Topic 1.1. Review of the fundamental rights and freedoms set up in the international human rights treaties over which the TB exercise their monitoring work.	International legal framework for the protection of human rights in the UN system. Treaty bodies and statutory bodies. Powers of the principal UN organs in the field of promotion and protection of human rights. Subsidiary organs of the UN in the field of promotion and protection of human rights: before and after reform (UN Human Rights Council and its mechanisms - Special Procedures and Universal Periodic Review). UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. UN World Conferences on Human Rights. Development and adoption of the International Bill of Human Rights.	S
	Topic 1.2. Review of the provisions of the Optional protocols establishing additional substantive rights coming under the purview of TBs.	Review of the provisions of optional protocols which establish Treaty Bodies or provide for their competences.	S
Section 2. Human rights treaty bodies: establishment,	Topic 2.1. The specifics of the Human Rights Treaty Bodies establishment.	Independence of Human Rights Treaty Bodies' members.	S

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Topic Contents	Academic activities types
membership, competencies	Topic 2.2. The process of election and the status of the Human Rights Treaty Bodies members.	The principle of equitable geographic representation in relation to the election in treaty bodies. Criteria in the establishment of human rights treaty bodies.	S
	Topic 2.3. Functions and competencies of the Human Rights Treaty Bodies.	The main functions and competencies of the Human Rights Treaty Bodies.	S
	Topic 2.4. Human Rights Treaty Bodies and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.	Cooperation of Human Rights Treaty Bodies and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.	S
Section 3. Procedure of consideration of periodic reports by human rights treaty bodies and individual communication by human rights treaty bodies	Topic 3.1. The preparation and consideration of periodic reports by States.	Differences between the “initial” and “periodic” report. Simplified reporting procedure.	S
	Topic 3.2. The individual complaint procedure within the treaty bodies system.	The admissibility criteria for the submission of individual complaints within the HRTBs system. Opinions of the HRTBs on individual complaints and their legal force.	S
	Topic 3.3. Procedure for the consideration of interstate communications.	The analysis of interstate communications.	S
Section 4. Legal nature of the outcome documents of the human rights treaty bodies and their legal status in national legal systems	Topic 4.1. Legal Nature of and recommendations contained in concluding observations issued by the HRTBs on periodic state reports.	Main challenges. Legal Nature of Opinions of the HRTBs on individual complaints.	S
	Topic 4.2. The legal nature and content of General Comments of the HRTBs.	The weight of the interpretation given by the UN HRTBs.	S
	Topic 4.3. The procedure of inquiry, on-site visits, follow-up measures and the process of implementation of TB recommendations.	The analysis of procedure of inquiry, on-site visits, follow-up measures and the process of implementation of TB recommendations.	S
Section 5. Cooperation of the human rights treaty bodies with the national human rights institutions (NHRI), non-governmental organisations (NGOs),	Topic 5.1. The NHRIs and the NGOs.	Participation of NHRI and NGOs in the work of the human rights treaty bodies. The role of the NGOs in the development of new international human rights standards, as well as in the ratification / accession of States to existing	S

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Topic Contents	Academic activities types
the OHCHR and the UN Human Rights Council		international human rights conventions.	
	Topic 5.2. The interaction of the Treaty Bodies with the Human Rights Council (Special Procedures and UPR) and the OHCHR.	Special Procedures and UPR of the Human Rights Council and the OHCHR.	S
	Topic 5.3. Representatives of the UN specialized agencies participate in the session of the Human Rights Treaty Bodies.	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency International Criminal Court International Fund for Agricultural Development International Labour Organization International Monetary Fund International Organization for Migration etc. and HRTBs.	S
Section 6. HRTBs Mooting seminar.	Topic 6.1. Simulation of a fictional dispute between an individual and a State before the HRTB.	The quasi-judicial organ of the United Nations.	S

* - to be filled in only for **full**-time training; *LC* - lectures; *LW* - lab work; *S* - seminars.

6. CLASSROOM EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

Table 6.1. Classroom equipment and technology support requirements

Type of academic activities	Classroom equipment	Specialised educational / laboratory equipment, software, and materials for course study (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.	Specialized educational/laboratory equipment, software and materials for the development of the discipline.
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.	Specialized educational/laboratory equipment, software and materials for the development of the discipline.

Type of academic activities	Classroom equipment	Specialised educational / laboratory equipment, software, and materials for course study (if necessary)
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.	Specialized educational/laboratory equipment, software and materials for the development of the discipline.
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.	Specialized educational/laboratory equipment, software and materials for the development of the discipline.
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.	Specialized educational/laboratory equipment, software and materials for the development of the discipline.
Courtroom	Classroom for court hearing simulation equipped with a set of specialized furniture; a set of devices including portable multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection.	Specialized educational/laboratory equipment, software and materials for the development of the discipline.

* The premises for students' self-studies are subject to **MANDATORY** mention

7. RESOURCES RECOMMENDED FOR COURSE STUDY

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/>

* The training toolkit for self- studies to master the course is placed on the course page in the university telecommunication training and information system under the set procedure.

8. ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT AND GRADING SYSTEM* FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENTS' COMPETENCES LEVEL UPON COURSE COMPLETION

The assessment toolkit and the grading system* to evaluate the competences formation level (competences in part) upon the course study completion are specified in the Appendix to the course syllabus.

* The assessment toolkit and the grading system are formed on the basis of the requirements of the relevant local normative act of RUDN University (regulations / order).

DEVELOPER:

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of International Law,
Full Professor

A.Kh. Abashidze

Position, Name of the Department

Signature

Full name

Assistant of the Department of
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M. Popovic

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