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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

**INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS / Бизнес, права
человека и устойчивость**

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 purpose of the present course is to contribute to the students' knowledge about the place role and importance of the human rights law in the sphere of international business. To introduce the readers to the norms, principles concerning corporate responsibility for human rights violations.

On the basis of the course studied are international human rights law, the mandate of the UN special representative on business and human rights, the activity of the Working Group on business and human rights, initial reports of the UN special representative on business and human rights, lawsuits and complains mechanisms concerning human rights violation in the sphere of international business, other documents adopted by the UN Human Rights Council.

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-7	Able to apply information technology and use legal databases to solve professional problems, taking into account information security requirements.	GPC-7.1. Knows basic information technologies and legal databases to solve problems in various fields of legal activity; GPC-7.2 Applies information technology and uses legal databases to solve professional problems, taking into account information security requirements; GPC-7.3. Have skills of information maintenance and data processing to solve professional tasks taking into account information security requirements.
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; PC-6.2. Provides qualified advice in specific areas of international law; PC-6.3. Possesses the skills to advise in specific areas of international legal regulation

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/internships*	Subsequent courses/internships*
GPC-7	Able to apply information technology and use legal databases to solve professional problems, taking into account information security requirements.	История и методология юридической науки	Научно-исследовательская работа Учебная практика (педагогическая) Производственная практика, в т.ч. преддипломная
PC-6	Able to give qualified legal advice in specific areas of international legal regulation.	Защита прав человека в системе ООН Защита экологических прав человека	Защита прав коренных народов и меньшинств Политические аспекты международной миграции Роль интеграционных объединений в международных организациях Обеспечение прав человека по праву Европейского союза Дискриминация и гендерные вопросы в современном международном праве Региональные системы защиты прав человека 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 3 credits (108 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 Module			
		5	6	7	8
<i>Classroom learning, academic hours</i>	18	18	-	-	-
including:					
Lectures (LC)	-	-	-	-	-
Lab work (LW)	-	-	-	-	-
Seminars (workshops/tutorials) (S)	18	18	-	-	-
<i>Self-study (ies), academic hours</i>	81	81	-	-	-
<i>Evaluation and assessment (exam or pass/fail grading)</i>	9	9	-	-	-

Types of academic activities		TOTAL, academic hours	Semester / Training Module			
			5	6	7	8
Course Workload	academic hours	108	108	-	-	-
	credits	3	3	-	-	-

5. COURSE CONTENTS

Table 5.1. Course contents and academic activities types

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Course contents	Academic activities types
Part I. The modern trends of the human rights development in the sphere of international business.	Topic 1.1. International standards concerning human rights protection in international business.	Core standards: UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) – the authoritative global framework; OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (human rights chapter); ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises (MNE Declaration); UN Global Compact Ten Principles; Draft Binding Treaty on Business and Human Rights (ongoing negotiations). These standards establish state duty to protect, corporate responsibility to respect, and access to remedy.	S
	Topic 1.2. Participants of human rights protection in the sphere of international business.	Key participants: States (duty-bearers, must protect against corporate abuses); Business enterprises (responsibility to respect human rights through due diligence); Civil society organisations (monitoring, advocacy, victim support); National Human Rights Institutions (complaint handling, guidance); International organisations (UN, ILO, OECD); Investors (ESG criteria); Affected individuals and communities (right-holders); Lawyers and arbitrators (remedy mechanisms).	S
Part II. Human rights protection in the sphere of international	Topic 2.1. Guiding Principles for the implementation of the UN Framework	The 31 Guiding Principles operationalise the three-pillar UN Framework (2008). Pillar I: State duty to protect against human	S

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Course contents	Academic activities types
business within the UN.	“Framework “Protect, Respect and Remedy” 2011.	rights abuses by businesses through laws, policies, and enforcement. Pillar II: Corporate responsibility to respect – to exercise human rights due diligence to identify, prevent, mitigate, and account for impacts. Pillar III: Access to effective remedy – non-judicial and judicial grievance mechanisms for victims.	
	Topic 2.2. Reports by John Ruggie to Human Rights Council.	John Ruggie (UN Special Representative 2005–2011) submitted key reports: 2008 report (A/HRC/8/5) – introduced “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework; 2011 final report (A/HRC/17/31) – presented the Guiding Principles unanimously endorsed by the Human Rights Council. Interim reports (2006, 2007) mapped state and corporate practices. These reports moved beyond the treaty/code debate, establishing a consensus-based, multi-stakeholder approach.	S
	Topic 2.3. Consultations, meetings and workshops carried out the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on business and human rights.	The Special Representative conducted over 47 multi-stakeholder consultations in more than 20 countries, including site visits to extractive and manufacturing zones. Held 6 regional workshops (Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe). Launched an online consultation attracting 500+ submissions from 120 countries. Engaged with governments, corporations, trade unions, NGOs, and affected communities. These consultations informed the development and validation of the UN Guiding Principles.	S
Part III. The UN activity concerning human rights protection in the sphere of international	Topic 3.1. Council of Europe and human rights protection in the sphere of international business.	The Council of Europe adopted Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)3 on Human Rights and Business. It calls for mandatory human rights due diligence by member states, addresses state-business nexus	S

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Course contents	Academic activities types
business at regional level.		(state-owned enterprises, export credits, privatised services), and strengthens non-judicial grievance mechanisms (NHRIs, labour inspectorates, ombudspersons). The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) indirectly applies to business through state obligations to protect against corporate violations (positive obligations).	
	Topic 3.2. Case law on human rights protection in the sphere of international business.	Key cases: European Court of Human Rights – Österreichische Post v. Austria (2021) on data processing and privacy; Ilhan v. Turkey (2000) on state responsibility for corporate-like acts. ECOWAS Court – SERAP v. Nigeria (2012) on environmental rights and oil companies. SADC Tribunal – Campbell v. Zimbabwe (2008) on property rights (later suspended). Domestic: Doe v. Unocal (US, 2002) on complicity in forced labour; Vedanta v. Lungowe (UK, 2019) on parent company liability for subsidiary’s environmental harm. Emergent jurisprudence on supply chain liability and corporate human rights due diligence.	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	Multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection.

Type of academic activities	Classroom equipment	Specialised educational / laboratory equipment, software, and materials for course study (if necessary)
	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 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

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

7. RECOMMENDED SOURCES FOR COURSE STUDY

Main reading (sources):

1. Wettstein, F. Business and Human Rights: Ethical, Legal, and Managerial Perspectives. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2022.

2. Robert McCorquodale. Business and Human Rights, Oxford, 2024.
3. Dorothee Baumann-Pauly, Justine Nolan. Business and Human Rights. From Principles to Practice. Routledge, 2023.
4. The Cambridge Companion to Business and Human Rights Law / Edited by Ilias Bantekas, Michael Ashley Stein. Cambridge University Press, 2021.

Internet 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"
 - UN Audiovisual Library of International Law (<http://legal.un.org/avl/>)
 - The Dag Hammarskjöld Library (<http://digitallibrary.un.org/>)
 - Springer (<https://rd.springer.com/>)
 - Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (<https://www.business-humanrights.org/>)
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/>

Training toolkit for self- studies to master the course *:

* 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).

DEVELOPERS:

Associate Professor of the
Department of International
Law, Candidate of Legal
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A.M. Solntsev

Position, Name of the Department

Signature

Full name

HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT

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