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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

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

2026

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)
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 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*
PC-6	Able to give qualified legal advice in specific areas of international legal regulation.	Protection of Human Rights in the UN System / Защита прав человека в системе ООН Environmental Protection and Human Rights / Защита экологических прав человека International Labour Rights in the Global Economy / Международное трудовое право и глобальная экономика	Discrimination and Gender Issues in Contemporary International Law / Дискриминация и гендерные вопросы в современном международном праве Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Rights Protection / Защита прав коренных народов и меньшинств International Humanitarian Law / Международное гуманитарное право

Competence Code	Competence descriptor	Previous courses/internships*	Subsequent courses/internships*
		Human Rights, SDGs and Challenges of the XXI Century / Права человека, Цели в области устойчивого развития и вызовы XXI века	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 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	-	-	-
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.	The core international standards include: the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) — the globally accepted framework for preventing and addressing business-related human rights risks; the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, which contain a dedicated chapter on human rights; and the ILO Tripartite	S

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Course contents	Academic activities types
		Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (MNE Declaration), providing guidance on labour rights and social policy. Additional standards include the UN Global Compact Ten Principles and the Principles for Responsible Contracts	
	Topic 1.2. Participants of human rights protection in the sphere of international business.	Key participants include: States (duty to protect against third-party abuses, including by businesses); Business enterprises (responsibility to respect human rights); Civil society organisations (monitoring, advocacy, supporting affected communities); National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) (promoting and monitoring business respect for human rights, handling complaints); International organisations (UN, ILO, OECD); Investors; and Affected individuals and communities	S
Part II. Human rights protection in the sphere of international business within the UN.	Topic 2.1. Guiding Principles for the implementation of the UN Framework “Framework “Protect, Respect and Remedy” 2011.	The 31 Guiding Principles operationalise the three-pillar UN Framework. Pillar I: State duty to protect against human rights abuses by third parties, including business, through appropriate policies and enforcement. Pillar II: Corporate responsibility to respect human rights, meaning to act with due diligence to avoid infringing on the rights of others. Pillar III: Greater access by victims to effective remedy, both judicial and non-judicial	S
	Topic 2.2. Reports by John Ruggie to Human Rights Council.	Professor John Ruggie, UN Special Representative (2005–2011), submitted several key reports. His 2008 report proposed the "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework. His final report in 2011 (A/HRC/17/31) presented the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, summarising six years of research and consultations. These reports moved beyond a divisive debate over binding corporate duties under international law, establishing a	S

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Course contents	Academic activities types
		consensual, multi-stakeholder approach	
	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 47 consultations and site visits in more than 20 countries, an online consultation attracting thousands from 120 countries, and received voluminous expert submissions. The OHCHR also convened multi-stakeholder consultations, including a two-day meeting in 2010 with businesses, NGOs, victims' representatives and other stakeholders to discuss implementation of the "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework	S
Part III. The UN activity concerning human rights protection in the sphere of international business at regional level.	Topic 3.1. Council of Europe and human rights protection in the sphere of international business.	The Council of Europe adopted a landmark Recommendation on Human Rights and Business (CM/Rec(2016)3). It calls on member States to require mandatory human rights due diligence for businesses in their jurisdiction, including through impact assessments, and addresses State-business nexus areas (state-owned enterprises, export credits, privatised services). It also focuses on strengthening non-judicial grievance mechanisms (NHRIs, labour inspectorates, ombudsperson institutions) and requires a progress review mechanism	S
	Topic 3.2. Case law on human rights protection in the sphere of international business.	While no global business and human rights court exists, regional and domestic case law is emerging. The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) has adjudicated cases involving business-related rights, such as Onat and Others v. Türkiye (2025) concerning dismissal of employees by private companies subcontracted by municipal authorities. In Africa, the ECOWAS Court has issued landmark rulings, including cases on blasphemy laws and discriminatory practices, while the SADC Tribunal's human rights jurisdiction was suspended after Campbell v. Zimbabwe (2008).	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.	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 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),

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

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Position, Name of the Department

Signature

A.M. Solntsev

Full name

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