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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**

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

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

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course title

**Recommended by the Didactic Council for the Education Field of:**

**40.04.01 JURISPRUDENCE**

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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**

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higher education programme profile/specialisation title

## 1. COURSE GOAL(s)

The main purpose of the course is to make students acquainted with the categorical apparatus that allows to describe the environmental rights integration problem within three generations of human rights, as well as formation and development problems of environmental human rights as a separate legal category; thereupon, to introduce students various sources of regulatory and doctrinal nature; to give an idea of the various legal remedies and observance of environmental 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.

## 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-5	Independently able to prepare legal documents and draft normative (individual) legal acts.	GPC-5.1. Possesses general and specific legal knowledge necessary for drafting legal documents for various purposes and developing drafts of normative (individual) legal acts; GPC-5.2. Independently compiles legal documents and develops drafts of normative (individual) legal acts; GPC-5.3. Has skills in drawing up legal documents and drafting normative (individual) legal acts in accordance with the profile of his/her professional activities.
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-5	Independently able to prepare legal documents and draft normative (individual) legal acts.	Comparative Law Research / Сравнительное правоведение	Research Work / Научно-исследовательская работа Externship and Pre-Degree Internship / Производственная практика, в т.ч. преддипломная
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	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 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 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 / Module			
			5	6	7	8
<i>Classroom learning, academic hours</i>		18	18	-	-	-
including:						
Lectures (LC)		0	0	-	-	-
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	-	-	-
<b>Course Workload</b>	academic hours	<b>108</b>	<b>108</b>	-	-	-
	credits	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	-	-	-

Table 4.2. Types of academic activities during the periods of higher education programme mastering (**part-time training**) \*

Types of academic activities		TOTAL, academic hours	Semester / Module			
			13	14	15	16
<i>Classroom learning, academic hours</i>						
including:						
Lectures (LC)						
Lab work (LW)						
Seminars (workshops/tutorials) (S)						
<i>Self-study (ies), academic hours</i>						
<i>Evaluation and assessment (exam or pass/fail grading)</i>						
<b>Course Workload</b>	academic hours					
	credits					

\* To be filled in regarding the higher education programme correspondence training mode.

## 5. COURSE CONTENTS

Table 5.1. Course contents and academic activities types

Number and title of the course section	Title of the topic	Content of the topic
Part I. Formation and development of the environmental rights concept. Universal level of the	Topic 1.1. Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council.	1. Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. 2. Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes

Number and title of the course section	Title of the topic	Content of the topic
protection of environmental human rights.	Topic 1.2. International legal protection mechanisms of environmental human rights. Human Rights Treaty Bodies.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. UN Charter bodies and environmental rights protection. The treaty bodies on human rights as a mean of environmental rights protection: The Commission on Human Rights (Council of Human Rights) Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Committee on the Rights of the Child.</li> <li>2. Analyze the reports the treaty bodies on human rights</li> <li>3. Analyze the cases: 1) Paraguay 2019 (communication No. 2751/2016); 2) Ioane Teitiota 2020 (communication No. 2728/2016).</li> <li>4. International non-governmental organizations in the field of environmental protection</li> </ol>
	Topic 1.3. Indigenous peoples and the environmental rights.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The formation and development history of the institution of protection of indigenous rights in international law.</li> <li>2. Describe the activities of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.</li> <li>3. The right of access to the use of natural resources.</li> <li>4. Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169).</li> <li>5. UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992, SDGs.</li> <li>6. Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests’ 2007.</li> <li>7. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 2007.</li> <li>8. Implementation of environmental rights of indigenous peoples at the international and regional levels.</li> <li>9. The international legal regime on access to genetic resources of indigenous peoples and equitable benefits from their usage.</li> </ol>
	Topic 1.4. Climate change and human rights.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. General information about climate change</li> <li>2. Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the relationship between climate change and human rights</li> </ol>

Number and title of the course section	Title of the topic	Content of the topic
		3. Effects on specific groups a) promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of climate change b) women's rights and climate change c) effects of climate change and human rights protection for cross-border migrants d) Indigenous peoples
Part II. Regional level of the protection of environmental human rights.	Topic 2.1. Aarhus Convention 1998 + Kiev Protocol 2003. Escazu Agreement 2018.	1. The European Convention on Human Rights 1950 and environmental rights. 2. Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE): role in maintaining the ecological security of the region. 3. The Convention on Access to Information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters of 25.06.1998 (Aarhus) 4. Innovative protection of environmental rights: a Compliance Committee of the Aarhus Convention (1998). 5. Kiev Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters 2003. 6. Case study
	Topic 2.2. Regional systems of the human rights protection.	1. The African Union and the protection of environmental human and peoples' rights (The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of 1981; Protocol to the 2003 African Charter on the Rights of Women; Activities of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights; African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources of 1968; Environmental non-governmental organizations in Africa; Afro-ecofeminism; Nobel Peace Prize 2004 Wangari Maathai) 2. The Organization of American States and the protection of environmental human and peoples' rights (The American Convention on Human Rights of 1969; Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Field of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1988; Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public

Number and title of the course section	Title of the topic	Content of the topic
		Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean 2018 ( <a href="https://www.cepal.org/en/escazuagreement">https://www.cepal.org/en/escazuagreement</a> ) 3. Case study

\* - 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)
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

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

## 7. RESOURCES RECOMMENDED FOR COURSE STUDY

### *Main reading (sources):*

1. Environmental Human Rights in the Anthropocene. Concepts, Contexts, and Challenges / Edited by Walter F. Baber, James R. May. Cambridge University Press, 2023.
2. Environmental Human Rights: An Innovative Approach to Achieving Sustainable Development Driss Ed Daran, Malik Zia-ud Din, 2025.
3. Sumudu Atapattu. UN Human Rights Institutions and the Environment Synergies, Challenges, Trajectories. Routledge, 2023.
4. Stephens Tim. International Courts and Environmental Protection. Cambridge University Press, 2022.

### *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](http://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/>)
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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Associate Professor of the  
Department of International  
Law, Candidate of Legal  
Sciences

A.M. Solntsev

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Position, Name of the  
Department

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Signature

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Full name

#### **HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT**

Head of the Department of  
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