UNSW Course Outline

POLS5125 The Politics of International Law - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : POLS5125
Year : 2024
Term : Term 3
Teaching Period : T3
Is a multi-term course? : No
Faculty : Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture
Academic Unit : School of Social Sciences
Delivery Mode : Multimodal
Delivery Format : Standard
Delivery Location : Kensington
Campus : Sydney
Study Level : Postgraduate
Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

Handbook Class Timetable

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

Human rights play a crucial role in the international political system. This course challenges you to analyse that role and major interpretations of that role. The course is concerned with the development of human rights across geographical, cultural and legal boundaries, in a dialogue

between international human rights institutions and domestic politics. Please note that this is an International Relations course focussing on the interaction of law and politics in the area of human rights. It is not a Law course. No prior knowledge of international law is required. Accordingly, we cover the sources, core principles and concepts of human rights in international law; distinguish political from legal interpretations of human rights; and explore the relationship between domestic policy formulation and international law. The course examines the sources of human rights, the rights of individuals, the duties of states, and mechanisms of recognition and protection. It draws on comparative material from different jurisdictions to explore questions such as discrimination on the basis of race and sex, religious freedom, economic and social rights in development, and human rights in the context of addressing terrorism.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Understand some of the key concepts and principles of international human rights and some of the central controversies surrounding the development of international human rights law
CLO2 : Identify the various ways in which politics and law are related in terms of human rights at the international level, and explain how this relationship operates and why it matters
CLO3 : Identify key actors in the international human rights system and assess their role in shaping the system
CLO4 : Understand the place of instruments such as the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and central conventions in the international legal and political system
CLO5 : Read and analyse an international convention and appreciate the various elements that have gone into its development
CLO6 : Thoughtfully consider different theoretical perspectives to explain international political and legal developments in human rights

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Understand some of the key concepts and principles of international human rights and some of the central controversies surrounding the development of international human rights law	• Test • Group presentation
CLO2 : Identify the various ways in which politics and law are related in terms of human rights at the international level, and explain how this relationship operates and why it matters	• Research Essay • Group presentation
CLO3 : Identify key actors in the international human rights system and assess their role in shaping the system	• Group presentation
CLO4 : Understand the place of instruments such as the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and central conventions in the international legal and political system	• Research Essay
CLO5 : Read and analyse an international convention and appreciate the various elements that have gone into its development	• Test
CLO6 : Thoughtfully consider different theoretical perspectives to explain international political and legal developments in human rights	• Research Essay

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Echo 360 | Blackboard Collaborate | Zoom

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Test Assessment Format: Individual	30%	Start Date: 09/10/2024 11:00 AM Due Date: 09/10/2024 01:00 PM Post Date: 23/10/2024 12:00 AM
Research Essay Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (2 days)	55%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 25/10/2024 11:30 PM Post Date: 08/11/2024 11:30 PM
Group presentation Assessment Format: Group	15%	Start Date: Presentations will be conducted in tutorials in Weeks 9 and 10 Due Date: Presentations will be conducted in tutorials in Weeks 9 and 10

Assessment Details
Test

Assessment Overview

The test consists of short-answer questions and short prose analyses of central concepts, with a focus designed to assess your knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of international human rights as addressed in class and associated readings in the first half of the course. You will not be asked to write an essay in the test. The duration of the test is 120 minutes.

Short individual comments will be given where appropriate, as well as general feedback on the questions and class answers. You will receive a numerical grade within ten working days of submission.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Understand some of the key concepts and principles of international human rights and some of the central controversies surrounding the development of international human rights law
- CLO5 : Read and analyse an international convention and appreciate the various elements that have gone into its development

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

<u>Generative AI Permission Level</u>

Simple Editing Assistance

In completing this assessment, you are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in the software you use to complete your assessment. These functions are described below. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text or other media, whether based on your own work or not.

If your Convenor has concerns that your submission contains passages of AI-generated text or media, you may be asked to account for your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

Research Essay

<u>Assessment Overview</u>

The essay is a research essay (Length - 2500 words) on a general question concerning international human rights, drawing on work done throughout the course. Students are encouraged to write their own questions in consultation with the Convenor, but set questions are also provided.

You will receive written feedback, a marked rubric, and a numerical grade within ten working days of submission. The rubric will be available at the start of term to allow you to work towards clearly defined standards.

<u>Course Learning Outcomes</u>

- CLO2 : Identify the various ways in which politics and law are related in terms of human rights at the international level, and explain how this relationship operates and why it matters
- CLO4 : Understand the place of instruments such as the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and central conventions in the international legal and political system
- CLO6 : Thoughtfully consider different theoretical perspectives to explain international political and legal developments in human rights

<u>Assessment Length</u>

2500

<u>Assignment submission Turnitin type</u>

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Group presentation

Assessment Overview

The presentation is a group work exercise with large scope for individual effort. Students will be divided into groups of 3-4. You will focus on a specific subject area drawn from the course, with individual students expected to provide exploration of one particular aspect of the subject area. The presentation requires individual students to speak for a maximum of four minutes, with comments provided following the presentations.

You will receive written feedback, a marked rubric, and a numerical grade within ten working days of submission. The rubric will be available at the start of term to allow you to work towards clearly defined standards.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Understand some of the key concepts and principles of international human rights and some of the central controversies surrounding the development of international human rights law
- CLO2 : Identify the various ways in which politics and law are related in terms of human rights at the international level, and explain how this relationship operates and why it matters
- CLO3 : Identify key actors in the international human rights system and assess their role in shaping the system

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Generative AI Permission Level

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General Assessment Information

<u>Grading Basis</u>

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 9 September - 15 September	Lecture	General introduction: Orientation and questions
Week 2 : 16 September - 22 September	Lecture	International human rights: background and principles. The rise and significance of the international human rights regime
Week 3 : 23 September - 29 September	Lecture	The law of multilateral treaties
Week 4 : 30 September - 6 October	Lecture	Topic: Discrimination on grounds of race and sex
Week 5 : 7 October - 13 October	Lecture	Topic: Human rights and the problem of religion Case study: The freedom of speech
Week 6 : 14 October - 20 October	Lecture	Topic: The significance of economic and social rights
Week 7 : 21 October - 27 October	Lecture	Topic: Human rights in peace and war Case study: The problem of genocide
Week 8 : 28 October - 3 November	Lecture	Topic: Human rights in the age of terror
Week 9 : 4 November - 10 November	Activity	Group presentations
Week 10 : 11 November - 17 November	Activity	Group presentations

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Octaviano Padovese de Arruda					Yes	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Student equity and disability;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- Examination information;
- Review of results;

Please see: https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines

Academic Honesty and Plagarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- Copying: Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.
- Collusion: Working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student for the purpose of them plagiarising, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.
- Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.
- Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): Submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another

university.

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. One of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items. UNSW Library has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW, but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Use of AI for assessments

As AI applications continue to develop, and technology rapidly progresses around us, we remain committed to our values around academic integrity at UNSW. Where the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, has been permitted by your course convener, they must be properly credited and your submissions must be substantially your own work.

In cases where the use of AI has been prohibited, please respect this and be aware that where unauthorised use is detected, penalties will apply.

[Use of AI for assessments | UNSW Current Students](#)

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, alternative submission details will be stated on your course's Moodle site. For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://

student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

Late Submission Penalty

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per calendar day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five calendar days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request Special Consideration as early as possible before the deadline. Support with Time Management is available here.

Important note: UNSW has a "fit to sit/submit" rule, which means that if you sit an exam or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. This is to ensure that if you feel unwell or are faced with significant circumstances beyond your control that affect your ability to study, you do not sit an examination or submit an assessment that does not reflect your best performance. Instead, you should apply for Special Consideration as soon as you realise you are not well enough or are otherwise unable to sit or submit an assessment.

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Location: Room 159, Morven Brown Building (C20), Kensington campus

Opening Hours: Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm (except public holidays)

Telephone: +61 2 9385 1807

Email: soss@unsw.edu.au

Web: https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/our-schools/social-sciences