UNSW Course Outline

GENL1062 Understanding Human Rights - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : GENL1062
Year : 2024
Term : Term 2
Teaching Period : T2C
Is a multi-term course? : No
Faculty : Faculty of Law and Justice
Academic Unit : School of Law, Society and Criminology
Delivery Mode : Online
Delivery Format : Standard
Delivery Location : Kensington
Campus : Sydney
Study Level : Undergraduate
Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

Handbook Class Timetable

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

Understanding Human Rights examines the moral and legal foundations of the contemporary human rights discourse. It explores the origins of human rights in Western philosophy and the impact of this on some of the important debates in the discourse, including the charge of

Western bias in the international system and the conflict between universalism and cultural relativism. It examines the development of national and international human rights instruments. The course examines the United Nations Human Rights treaty system and associated mechanisms. It introduces students to human rights protection and enforcement through Public International Law, International Humanitarian Law, and Humanitarian Intervention; it discusses the role of the UN Security Council, and the role of the International Criminal Court and Special Tribunals. The course also critiques Australia's human rights record by examining the relationship between Australian and International Law and seeing what rights are protected in the Constitution. Other protective measures are also identified. The course uses contemporary examples of human rights abuse to illustrate the content.

Course Aims

Understanding Human Rights examines the moral and legal foundations of the contemporary human rights discourse. It explores the origins of human rights in Western philosophy and the impact of this on some of the important debates in the discourse, including the charge of Western bias in the international system and the conflict between universalism and cultural relativism. It examines the development of national and international human rights instruments. The course examines the United Nations Human Rights treaty system and associated mechanisms. It introduces students to human rights protection and enforcement through Public International Law, International Humanitarian Law, and Humanitarian Intervention; it discusses the role of the UN Security Council, and the role of the International Criminal Court and Special Tribunals. The course also critiques Australia's human rights record by examining the relationship between Australian and International Law and seeing what rights are protected in the Constitution. Other protective measures are also identified. The course uses contemporary examples of human rights abuse to illustrate the content.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : A familiarity with the moral and legal foundations of the contemporary human rights discourse (GA1)
CLO2 : The enhancement of students' research skills (GAs 1 and 2)
CLO3 : The ability to use more refined analytical tools in this area of study (GAs 1, 2 and 3)
CLO4 : The ability to draw on knowledge from a number of related disciplines to understand the complexity of human rights issues (GAs 1, 2, 3 and 5)
CLO5 : A greater awareness of the formal and informal mechanisms available to address and remedy human rights abuses in different settings
CLO6 : An enhanced understanding of the complexity of the world in which the students live and work (GAs 1, 2, 3, and 5)

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : A familiarity with the moral and legal foundations of the contemporary human rights discourse (GA1)	• Short Assignment (500-800 words) • Online Course Participation
CLO2 : The enhancement of students' research skills (GAs 1 and 2)	• Essay (1500-1800 words) • Short Assignment (500-800 words)
CLO3 : The ability to use more refined analytical tools in this area of study (GAs 1, 2 and 3)	• Essay (1500-1800 words)
CLO4 : The ability to draw on knowledge from a number of related disciplines to understand the complexity of human rights issues (GAs 1, 2, 3 and 5)	• Online Course Participation • Essay (1500-1800 words) • Short Assignment (500-800 words)
CLO5 : A greater awareness of the formal and informal mechanisms available to address and remedy human rights abuses in different settings	• Online Course Participation • Essay (1500-1800 words) • Short Assignment (500-800 words)
CLO6 : An enhanced understanding of the complexity of the world in which the students live and work (GAs 1, 2, 3, and 5)	• Online Course Participation • Essay (1500-1800 words) • Short Assignment (500-800 words)

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Microsoft Teams

Additional Course Information

The approach to teaching emphasised by UNSW Law has been adapted to meet the

requirements of this course which is fully online and asynchronous.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Essay (1500-1800 words)	50%	
Short Assignment (500-800 words)	30%	
Online Course Participation	20%	

Assessment Details
Essay (1500-1800 words)

<u>Assessment Overview</u>

Each student must complete a 1500-1800 word research essay. Essays should show considerable evidence of independent research. Essays require students to critically analyse a specific issue related to the course material, evaluate different approaches to it and present, in written form, an argument which addresses outcomes. These can take the student's own analysis into consideration.

The essay topic will be given early in the course.

Assessment criteria and rubrics are on Moodle.

<u>Course Learning Outcomes</u>

- CLO2 : The enhancement of students' research skills (GAs 1 and 2)
- CLO3 : The ability to use more refined analytical tools in this area of study (GAs 1, 2 and 3)
- CLO4 : The ability to draw on knowledge from a number of related disciplines to understand the complexity of human rights issues (GAs 1, 2, 3 and 5)
- CLO5 : A greater awareness of the formal and informal mechanisms available to address and remedy human rights abuses in different settings
- CLO6 : An enhanced understanding of the complexity of the world in which the students live and work (GAs 1, 2, 3, and 5)

<u>Assessment Length</u>

1500-1800 words

Short Assignment (500-800 words)

<u>Assessment Overview</u>

The short assignment is a directed research task. Each student will be asked to prepare one short, written assignment (500-800 words) on an area under investigation in the course. Students can plan ahead by choosing a theme from the Course Schedule which interests them. However, the questions they have to answer will only be made available one or two classes before it is due. In this way, all students have roughly the same amount of time to research and write their specific assignment. The short assignment must be completed and submitted by the date the student's chosen theme is covered online during class.

Assessment criteria and rubrics are on Moodle.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : A familiarity with the moral and legal foundations of the contemporary human rights discourse (GA1)
- CLO2 : The enhancement of students' research skills (GAs 1 and 2)
- CLO4 : The ability to draw on knowledge from a number of related disciplines to understand the complexity of human rights issues (GAs 1, 2, 3 and 5)
- CLO5 : A greater awareness of the formal and informal mechanisms available to address and remedy human rights abuses in different settings
- CLO6 : An enhanced understanding of the complexity of the world in which the students live and work (GAs 1, 2, 3, and 5)

Online Course Participation

Assessment Overview

Your class participation (CP) mark will be based on your participation in online activities and completion of online class assignments.

Students are expected to complete the set reading before class and to participate in online discussion, small group work and debates. Students are assessed on their preparation for class, their knowledge of the weekly topics and their interaction with other students.

Assessment criteria and rubrics are on Moodle.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : A familiarity with the moral and legal foundations of the contemporary human rights discourse (GA1)
- CLO4 : The ability to draw on knowledge from a number of related disciplines to understand the complexity of human rights issues (GAs 1, 2, 3 and 5)
- CLO5 : A greater awareness of the formal and informal mechanisms available to address and remedy human rights abuses in different settings
- CLO6 : An enhanced understanding of the complexity of the world in which the students live and work (GAs 1, 2, 3, and 5)

General Assessment Information

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

To pass the course, students must complete all course requirements within the allotted time and by the due dates. This includes the readings, lectures, quizzes, compulsory short exercises, the short assignment, and essay. Marks are deducted for late completion. There is no exam within this course.

Your final mark and grade depend on how well you perform in these tasks.

Due dates for all assessment tasks are available in the Assessment Timetable in the 'Assessment Hub' section of the Moodle course page. Information, instructions, and requirements for these tasks are also outlined in the 'Assessment Hub'. The assignment and essay topics will be made available early in the course giving you time to complete them satisfactorily by their due dates.

Course Schedule

Attendance Requirements

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

General Schedule Information

This course is fully online and asynchronous. However, it runs to a strict timetable. Each unit, and the classes therein, must be completed within the allotted time to ensure you are prepared for the compulsory exercises and assessment tasks. The course material for each unit/class will be opened progressively throughout the course.

Students should aim to spend around 4 hours on each unit. This time should be spent working through the sequenced readings, lecture materials, and quizzes within each class. Please note that you must allow extra time to undertake your own research, and complete your written exercises, assignment, and essay.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

Listed on Moodle.

Recommended Resources

Listed on Moodle.

Additional Costs

None

Course Evaluation and Development

Comment of previous student feedback and how it changed aspects of the course is available on

moodle.

Students are provided with written feedback on all written tasks.

Students are encouraged to book a consultation for individual feedback.

Class feedback is provided on Moodle forums.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Prue Vines					No	No
Head lecturer	John Squires		Law Building Room 308		Online and by arrangement.	Yes	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Upon your enrolment at UNSW, you share responsibility with us for maintaining a safe, harmonious and tolerant University environment.

You are required to:

- Comply with the University's conditions of enrolment.
- Act responsibly, ethically, safely and with integrity.
- Observe standards of equity and respect in dealing with every member of the UNSW community.
- Engage in lawful behaviour.
- Use and care for University resources in a responsible and appropriate manner.
- Maintain the University's reputation and good standing.

For more information, visit the UNSW Student Code of Conduct Website.

UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy

It is essential that all students undertaking this course read and abide by the UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy & Student Information. This document includes information on Class Attendance, Late Work, Word Limits, Marking, Special Consideration, Workload, and Academic Misconduct & Plagiarism. More information can also be found at Assessment & Exam

[Information](#).

Information regarding Course Outlines are subject to change and students are advised to check updates. If there is a discrepancy between the information posted here and the handbook or the UNSW Law & Justice website, please contact [Student Services via The Nucleus Hub](#) for advice. UNSW Law & Justice reserves the right to discontinue or vary such courses or staff allocations at any time. If your course is not here, please visit [Handbook](#) for information.

Academic Honesty and Plagarism

As a student at UNSW you are expected to display [academic integrity](#) in your work and interactions. Where a student breaches the [UNSW Student Code](#) with respect to academic integrity, the University may take disciplinary action under the Student Misconduct Procedure. To assure academic integrity, you may be required to demonstrate reasoning, research and the process of constructing work submitted for assessment.

To assist you in understanding what academic integrity means, and how to ensure that you do comply with the UNSW Student Code, it is strongly recommended that you complete the [Working with Academic Integrity](#) module before submitting your first assessment task. It is a free, online self-paced Moodle module that should take about one hour to complete.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Before submitting assessment items all students must read and abide by the [UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy & Student Information](#).

Special consideration

Special consideration is primarily intended to provide you with an extra opportunity to demonstrate the level of performance of which you are capable. To apply, and for further information, see Special Consideration on the UNSW [Current Students](#) page.

Feedback

UNSW Law & Justice appreciates the need for students to have feedback on their progress prior to the last date for withdrawal without failure. All courses will therefore provide feedback to students prior to this date, as well as throughout the course. However, students should note that feedback does not take the form only of formal grades and written comments on written

assessments. Rather, formative feedback, which helps students to self-assess, to identify misunderstandings, and to identify areas requiring further work, will occur during class and possibly online. For example, where a teacher asks the class a question, all students should think about how they might answer. Even though not all students will necessarily be able to respond orally, everyone can reflect on their tentative answer in light of the teacher's response and subsequent class discussion. If you are struggling to understand what is being asked in class, or if your tentative answers prove incorrect and subsequent discussion does not clear things up, then you should continue to ask questions (of yourself, your peers or your teacher). Similarly, you can get a sense of your ability in a course through peer feedback during group work, your teacher's responses to your in-class contributions, and your own response to in-class problems and examples (whether or not you are called on to relay your answer to the class) and also your online activities and responses by others to those activities. Students enrolled in this course may check their Moodle course page for details on the specific feedback used in this course.

Faculty-specific Information

Additional support for students

- Student support: https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/support
- Academic Skills and Support: https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing
- Equitable Learning Services: https://student.unsw.edu.au/els
- UNSW IT Service Centre: https://www.myit.unsw.edu.au

Course improvement

Student feedback is very important to continual course improvement. This is demonstrated within the Faculty of Law & Justice by the implementation of the UNSW online student survey myExperience, which allows students to evaluate their learning experiences in an anonymous way. myExperience survey reports are produced from each survey. They are released to staff after all student assessment results are finalised and released to students. Course convenors will use the feedback to make ongoing improvements to the course. Students enrolled in this course may check their Moodle course page for details on the actions taken in response to evaluation feedback in Student Survey.

School Contact Information

Please contact Nucleus Student Hub for all enquiries. The Nucleus acts as a central communications hub for UNSW and will distribute your enquiry to the best person to respond.