



UNSW Course Outline

ARTS2845 Sex, Human Rights and Justice - 2024

Published on the 12 May 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : ARTS2845

Year : 2024

Term : Term 2

Teaching Period : T2

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture

Academic Unit : School of Social Sciences

Delivery Mode : In Person

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

This course examines the principles and practices of human rights in relation to questions of sex and sexual relations. In particular, the focus of the course is on the adequacy and appropriateness of a human rights approach to justice in exploring those questions. We explore

conceptions of freedom, dignity and autonomy of the person which lie at the foundation of human rights understandings, in connection with conceptions of equality, non-subordination, privacy, consent, freedom of contract, markets, and citizenship.

These understandings will be further considered in relation to specific areas such as discrimination, harassment, pornography, prostitution/sex work and trafficking, abortion, sexual violence and rape.

Course Aims

This course examines the principles and practices of human rights in relation to questions of sex and sexual relations. In particular, the focus of the course is on the adequacy and appropriateness of a human rights approach to justice in exploring those questions. We explore conceptions of the autonomy and dignity of the person that lie at the foundation of human rights understandings, in connection with conceptions of freedom, equality, non-subordination, privacy, consent, freedom of contract, markets, and citizenship. These understandings will be further considered in relation to specific areas such as discrimination, harassment, abortion, prostitution/sex work and trafficking, pornography, sexual violence and rape.

Attention will be given to international conventions and institutions concerned with human rights, as well as to the development and current state of public policy and law in areas of sex and sexual relations in Australia, and within a comparative perspective (particularly the USA, Canada, and the UK). However, the course is not restricted to the current situation in Australia or elsewhere with regard to sex and human rights, but is also concerned with working out what would be more just ways of addressing this area. Note also that in looking at such problems, we are not confined to an uncritical exploration of human rights, but that we are concerned to think through the ambiguities and weaknesses of such an approach as well as its strengths. Human rights understandings of justice give us a place to begin our study, but it is not at all the case that we have to end there.

Some of the most crucial problems in modern societies concern sex and sexual relations, and developing your ability to think, read and write in an analytical and critical way about such problems is a path to increasing your competence as scholars and more broadly as citizens. A central aim of this course is to develop your ability in these ways, and thus to help you to pursue justice with knowledge and clarity.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Grasp that literacy in questions of human rights and of sex/gender is a requirement for all who wish to understand politics and justice properly
CLO2 : Develop a reflective awareness of the importance of ethical issues in politics and society
CLO3 : Learn to deliberate carefully about these issues in company with your peers
CLO4 : Learn how to read a book carefully and profitably
CLO5 : Develop disciplined research and writing techniques, including the use of bibliographical materials
CLO6 : Develop an ability to produce succinct and relevant notes through reading reports, and to write coherently and analytically during tests and quizzes

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Grasp that literacy in questions of human rights and of sex/gender is a requirement for all who wish to understand politics and justice properly	• Essay
CLO2 : Develop a reflective awareness of the importance of ethical issues in politics and society	• Essay
CLO3 : Learn to deliberate carefully about these issues in company with your peers	• Tutorial Report
CLO4 : Learn how to read a book carefully and profitably	• Essay
CLO5 : Develop disciplined research and writing techniques, including the use of bibliographical materials	• Essay
CLO6 : Develop an ability to produce succinct and relevant notes through reading reports, and to write coherently and analytically during tests and quizzes	• Test

Learning and Teaching Technologies

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

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Test Assessment Format: Individual	30%	Due Date: 30/06/2024 11:59 PM
Essay Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (3 days)	60%	Due Date: 05/08/2024 11:59 PM
Tutorial Report Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (3 days)	10%	Due Date: 05/08/2024 11:59 PM

Assessment Details

Test

Assessment Overview

Online quiz on course content. Each quiz will be marked within two weeks of submission and the students will receive numerical grades.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO6 : Develop an ability to produce succinct and relevant notes through reading reports, and to write coherently and analytically during tests and quizzes

Assessment information

You are required to do the assigned readings every week as the basis for tutorial discussion. These readings and other course work also form the basis for the first assessment, an online quiz/test that involves short answers and responses, held in Week 5.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Essay

Assessment Overview

Students will prepare an individual essay (2500 words) on course content. The assessment criteria is available to students at the start of semester so that they can work towards specified standards. Students will receive feedback within ten working days of submission.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Grasp that literacy in questions of human rights and of sex/gender is a requirement for all who wish to understand politics and justice properly
- CL02 : Develop a reflective awareness of the importance of ethical issues in politics and society
- CL04 : Learn how to read a book carefully and profitably
- CL05 : Develop disciplined research and writing techniques, including the use of bibliographical materials

Assessment Length

2500 words

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Tutorial Report

Assessment Overview

Students submit an individual report on their tutorial preparation and participation (500 words). The assessment criteria is available to students at the start of semester so that they can work towards specified standards. Students will receive feedback within ten working days of submission.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL03 : Learn to deliberate carefully about these issues in company with your peers

Assessment Length

approx 500 words

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

General Assessment Information

More detailed information on composing and writing assignments will be provided in Week 1.

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 0 : 20 May - 26 May	Activity	No classes this week, lectures and tutorials begin in Week 1
Week 1 : 27 May - 2 June	Lecture	General introduction: Orientation and questions Both lectures and tutorials begin this week
Week 2 : 3 June - 9 June	Lecture	Understandings of human rights, sex/gender, and justice
Week 3 : 10 June - 16 June	Lecture	Forms of discrimination in public and private
Week 4 : 17 June - 23 June	Lecture	Sexual harassment and intimate relations
Week 5 : 24 June - 30 June	Lecture	Abortion and reproductive rights: A question of life, privacy or of sexual equality?
Week 6 : 1 July - 7 July	Activity	Flexibility week
Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July	Lecture	Rape and sexual violation: Individual and/or social (systemic) harm?
Week 8 : 15 July - 21 July	Lecture	Sexual assault, autonomy and affirmative consent
Week 9 : 22 July - 28 July	Lecture	Prostitution, sex work and trafficking: A question of contractual freedom or of exploitation?
Week 10 : 29 July - 4 August	Lecture	Pornography: What does it sell? Conclusion & summing up – and farewells Lectures and tutorials end this week

Attendance Requirements

The School of Social Sciences expects that students will attend and participate actively in 100% of learning and teaching activities (henceforth 'classes', to include lectures, tutorials, seminars, labs, online activities and so on). If you attend fewer than 80% of classes, you may be refused final assessment. This means that if you do not attend at least 80% of possible classes your final assignment or exam may receive a mark of zero. You are responsible for keeping track of your attendance and contacting your course convenor immediately if you are concerned about your attendance record and its impact on your ability to complete the course successfully.

For the purpose of attendance monitoring, the final assessment for this course is an essay worth 60% of your overall grade for this course. This is the assessment item that will be graded at zero if you do not meet the attendance requirement for this course.

Please note: Lectures and tutorials will be conducted in person, with lectures being recorded. Back-up arrangements (Plan B) are in place in case of Covid or similar complications.

General Schedule Information

The same general topics will be covered in both lectures and tutorials in each week. Lecture material will be related to what is discussed in tutorials, although lectures will also aim to bring in more background material on the problems discussed, in order to develop the intellectual and policy framework of the questions discussed. Lectures will deal with questions in their historical and contemporary setting, examine their importance, and try to explain why they are worthwhile

considering. In particular, attention will be given to setting out the political, legal and cultural position on these issues, with a focus on Australia. Tutorials will be devoted directly to consideration of problems arising out of the assigned texts.

The aim of tutorials in this course is to enable students to participate directly in the presentation and analysis of ideas and arguments, through group discussion. The tutorial topics listed below for each week of the semester offer questions and a *suggested* focus on themes related to the lectures and assigned readings. Students are however encouraged to shift the focus of these topics, or perhaps even select alternative themes related to the relevant text or thematic readings. Tutorials are intended to examine ideas, sections of a text or theoretical problems in a manner that will complement and expand the materials addressed in lectures and reading assignments. Tutorial discussion is not only a chance for you to present your ideas, but to exchange ideas with others, and to elicit the participation of others: not all discussion needs to be routed through the tutor. In some of the weekly tutorials, structured small-group discussion will address problems arising from the readings.

Both lectures and tutorials will presuppose that you have read and made an honest attempt to understand the required reading for each week. Starred readings are required. The list of recommended readings included on Moodle has been selected in order to help you do research for course essays. You are not required to read all the other sources noted in the course guide or on the Moodle readings list, but I do encourage you to read beyond the assigned texts.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

The essential readings for each week are marked with an asterisk in the weekly schedule.

Recommended Resources

As noted above, tutorials presuppose that you have read and made an honest attempt to understand the required reading for each week, which is starred in the course guide below.

It is important that as citizens, and students of politics, you read at least one good news source daily (for example, the online Guardian or New York Times is adequate), as well as weekly and monthly journals that provide information and argument about the state of the world. Please feel free to ask the Course Coordinator for suggestions about other books, articles or websites that might help you to gain understanding in specific areas of interest to you. And in general, do not allow yourself to fall behind with work because of not asking for help!

- Useful reference works on human rights include

Henry J. Steiner, Philip Alston and Ryan Goodman, ed., *International Human Rights in Context: Law, Politics, Morals*, 3rd ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007)

Nick O'Neill, Simon Rice and Roger Douglas, *Retreat from Injustice: Human Rights Law in Australia* 2nd ed. (Sydney: Federation Press, 2004)

Martin Flynn, *Human Rights in Australia: Treaties, Statutes and Cases* (Sydney: Butterworths, 2003)

Stuart Kaye and Ryszard Piotrowicz, *Human Rights in International and Australian Law* (Sydney: Butterworths, 2000)

Regina Graycar and Jenny Morgan, *The Hidden Gender of Law*, 2nd ed. (Sydney: Federation Press, 2002)

Kelly D. Askin and Doreen M. Koenig, ed., *Women and International Human Rights Law* 3 vols. (Ardsley NY: Transnational Publishers, 1999-2001)

Catharine A. MacKinnon, *Sex Equality* (New York: Foundation Press, 2001)

Catharine A. MacKinnon, *Women's Lives, Men's Laws* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2005)

Catharine A. MacKinnon, *Are Women Human? And Other International Dialogues* (Cambridge Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2006)

Louis Henkin et al., ed., *Human Rights* (New York: Foundation Press, 1999), also note supplements

- Useful online sources include

[Google](#) and [Google Scholar](#)

Of course! You can set up the preferences to link Google Scholar to the UNSW Library even when you are not on campus: go to Google Scholar> settings> library links, and enter 'University of New South Wales' in the box for 'Library'.

[United Nations](#), and [UN Women](#)

The UN site offers access to documents, decisions and everything else to do with the UN (as the site is gigantic, it is sometimes quicker to search for UN documents using [Google](#)).

[Australian Legal Information Institute \(AustLII\)](#)

This site provides access to an extensive selection of primary and secondary Australian legal materials, and has links to many international legal databases and electronic journals.

[Australian Parliament](#)

This site provides access to debates, legislation, committees, parliamentary who's who etc., with a digital search of records from 1901 at [ParlInfo](#), and invaluable publications at the [Parliamentary Library](#).

[High Court of Australia](#)

The Court's home page offers decisions, transcripts, recent speeches, biographies of the judges, etc.

[Human Rights Watch](#), esp. [Women's Rights](#)

[European Court of Human Rights](#)

Cases and other material from the European Court.

[United Kingdom Parliament](#)

This site offers access to both political and legal decisions, plus all the usual stuff on government. There are also separate websites for the [Scottish Government \(Riaghaltas na h-Alba\)](#), the [Welsh Government \(Llywodraeth Cymru\)](#), and the [Northern Ireland Executive](#) [possible].

[The White House](#)

Official web site for the White House and the 45th President of the USA.

[Supreme Court of Canada](#)

This site provides access to decisions of the Supreme Court of Canada.

[Supreme Court of the United States](#)

This site offers US Supreme Court decisions as well as lots of other material.

[Oyez](#)

This US Supreme Court Multimedia site provides access to oral arguments, transcripts and cases.

Many other useful databases are available via the [UNSW Library website](#).

Course Evaluation and Development

At UNSW, student evaluative feedback is gathered periodically using, among other means, the myExperience process. Student feedback on this course is gathered through myExperience evaluations at the end of the course, and at any time students are welcome to email or speak to the Convenor about questions or problems. It is sometimes the case that students understand the significance of some of the problems considered only after the course is formally completed, and students are also always welcome to contact the seminar Convenor after classes have finished, even many years after the course has ended. All feedback is carefully considered, reflected upon, and used to evaluate and refine all aspects of the course.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Helen Pringle		MB 142	(02) 9065 5302	By appointment	Yes	Yes
Tutor	Chelsea van Deventer				TBA	No	No

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided).

Please see: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines> for essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;

- Student Support Services;
- Dean's List;
- review of results;
- credit transfer;
- cross-institutional study and exchange;
- examination information;
- enrolment information;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;

And other essential academic information.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

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

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au

Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin, you may

apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support, you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone, you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, 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](#).

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>