LAW 469

International Human Rights Law

S1 Day 2015

Dept of Law

Contents

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
Carolyn Adams
carolyn.adams@mq.edu.au
Contact via carolyn.adams@mq.edu.au
W3A 511
Wednesday13.00 to 14.00

Credit points
3

Prerequisites
39cp or (6cp in LAW or LAWS units at 300 level)

Corequisites
LAWS259 or LAW409 or LAW459 or LAW509

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit deals with the protection and promotion of human rights in international law. The unit traces the historical development of human rights law at national, international regional and global levels. The unit considers frameworks for analysing the rights of individuals and groups – and the duties of states to protect those rights – as well as the institutions and mechanisms in place to protect and promote rights in practice. The unit includes consideration of the cross-cultural dimensions and other tensions inherent in this area of international law, with a focus on contemporary challenges for international human rights law.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Demonstrate an understanding of the foundations and evolution of the international human rights law system--within the broader international law framework--and the resulting strengths and weaknesses of the system.

Evaluate and compare the mechanisms available for monitoring and enforcing human

rights standards in different international and regional systems.

Engage constructively with various critiques and theories of human rights--for example, whether rights are universal or particular--and be able to critically discuss the significance of those approaches in the development, interpretation and operation of international human rights law.

Reflect on past and present international developments, and be able to analyse and interpret such developments from an international human rights law perspective.

General Assessment Information

Disruption to Studies

In the absence of a successful application for special consideration due to a disruption to studies, any assessment task submitted after its published deadline will not be graded and will receive a mark of zero. Applications for a Disruption to Studies are made electronically, via ask.mq.edu.au, and should be accompanied by supporting documentation. Students should refer to the Disruption to Studies Policy for complete details of the policy and a description of the supporting documentation required.

Please note that a Disruption to Studies application will only be successful where the student experiences a serious and unavoidable disruption that could not have been reasonably anticipated, avoided or guarded against by the student AND was beyond the student's control AND caused substantial disruption to the student's capacity for effective study and/or completion of required work AND was at least three (3) consecutive days duration.

Submission

All assessments in the unit are to be submitted electronically by way of Turnitin on the iLearn page. Plagiarism detection software is used in this unit.

Format

All assessment tasks in this unit must be typed in **Word format** and be **double spaced** to facilitate marking in Turnitin.

Word Limits

Word limits will be strictly applied and work above the word limit will not be assessed.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Annotated Bibliography	10%	20 March 2015
Essay	40%	3 April 2015
Final Assignment	50%	12 June 2015

Annotated Bibliography

Due: **20 March 2015**
Weighting: **10%**

You are required to submit an annotated bibliography covering five academic journal articles you intend to rely on in the preparation of your essay. Each entry in the annotated bibliography will have a maximum word limit of 200 words and the annotated bibliography as a whole will have a maximum word limit of 1000 words. Please note that this is an absolute maximum and that any words beyond the word limit will not be read or taken into account in grading your paper.

You are required to submit your annotated bibliography by way of Turnitin on the unit iLearn page **before 5 pm on Friday, 20 March 2015.**

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Demonstrate an understanding of the foundations and evolution of the international human rights law system--within the broader international law framework--and the resulting strengths and weaknesses of the system.
- Reflect on past and present international developments, and be able to analyse and interpret such developments from an international human rights law perspective.

Essay

Due: **3 April 2015**
Weighting: **40%**

You are required to submit an essay in response to a choice of two questions. The maximum word limit for the essay will be 2000 words. Please note that this is an absolute maximum and that any words beyond the word limit will not be read or taken into account in grading your essay.This word limit does not include footnotes, but footnotes must not include any substantive text. A bibliography is not required.

You are required to submit your essay by way of Turnitin on the unit iLearn page **before 5 pm on Friday, 3 April 2015.**

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Demonstrate an understanding of the foundations and evolution of the international human rights law system--within the broader international law framework--and the resulting strengths and weaknesses of the system.
- Reflect on past and present international developments, and be able to analyse and interpret such developments from an international human rights law perspective.

Final Assignment

Due: **12 June 2015**

Weighting: **50%**

You are required to complete a final assignment during the University examination period, which runs from Tuesday, 9 June 2015 to Friday, 26 June 2015. All students are required to ensure that they are available until the end of the teaching period, that is, until the final day of the official examination period.

The final assignment in this unit will be posted on the unit iLearn page at 9 am on Thursday, 11 June 2015 and will be due before 5 pm on Friday, 12 June 2015.

The examination will comprise five (5) short answer questions and an essay. You will be given a choice of ten (10) short answer questions and a choice of two (2) essay topics. The questions and the essay topics may be drawn from any part of the course. Each response to a short answer question must not exceed 300 words. Your response to all five of the short answer questions must not exceed 1500 words. Your response to the essay question must not exceed 1000 words. Please note that these are absolute maximums and that any words beyond the word limits will not be read or taken into account in grading your final assignment. These word limits do not include footnotes, but footnotes must not include any substantive text. A bibliography is not required.

You will have 32 hours to complete the final assignment, although the assignment itself should take you no longer than 3 hours in total. The assignment is available over a 32 hour period (that is, two days and one evening) to allow for work, family and other commitments, including exams, and for students who require reasonable adjustments to the timing of assessments.

You are required to submit your final assignment by way of Turnitin on the unit iLearn page **before 5 pm on Friday, 12 June 2015.** Your final assignment must be submitted as two separate documents: (1) Responses to short answer questions; and (2) Response to essay question.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Demonstrate an understanding of the foundations and evolution of the international human rights law system--within the broader international law framework--and the resulting strengths and weaknesses of the system.
- Evaluate and compare the mechanisms available for monitoring and enforcing human rights standards in different international and regional systems.
- Engage constructively with various critiques and theories of human rights--for example, whether rights are universal or particular--and be able to critically discuss the significance of those approaches in the development, interpretation and operation of international human rights law.
- Reflect on past and present international developments, and be able to analyse and interpret such developments from an international human rights law perspective.

Delivery and Resources

Technology used and required

To participate successfully in this unit, students will require access to the unit iLearn page. Students will be required to upload all assessment tasks by way of Turnitin on the unit iLearn page.

Delivery

The unit will be delivered as a series of weekly two hour lectures running from Week 1 until Week 13, which will be recorded on Echo360. It is important that you attend or listen to the lectures every week for guidance on content and how best to approach the various assessment items. There will also be weekly one hour tutorials running from Week 1 until Week 13, which will deal with the topics to be covered in the assessment tasks in more detail.

Unit materials

You are required to have access to both of the prescribed texts for this unit, as there will be readings set from each text almost every week. The prescribed texts are as follows:

- Olivier De Schutter, *International Human Rights Law: Cases, Materials and Commentary*(Cambridge University Press, 2nd ed, 2014); and
- D Moeckli, S Shah and S Sivakumaran (eds), *International Human Rights Law* (Oxford University Press, 2nd ed, 2014).

Preparatory readings

In preparation for LAW469, you should read the following material from the prescribed textbook to refresh your understanding of basic international law sources and principles:

- D Moeckli, S Shah and S Sivakumaran (eds), *International Human Rights Law* (Oxford University Press, 2010) Ch 4.

Unit Schedule

A detailed weekly schedule will be provided on the unit iLearn page.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html

Grading Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html

Grade Appeal Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.