



MHIS2001

A History of Human Rights

Session 2, Fully online/virtual 2020

Department of Modern History, Politics & International Relations

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Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.

Notice

As part of [Phase 3 of our return to campus plan](#), most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group learning activities on campus for the second half-year, while keeping an online version available for those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face and online activities for your unit, please go to [timetable viewer](#). To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Clare Monagle

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

40cp at 1000 level or above OR (10cp in HIST or MHIS or POL or POIR or MHIX or POIX units)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit will provide a historical account of changing ideas of human worth, dignity and progress. Drawing upon wide departmental expertise in the history of legal systems, social movements and political action, it will explore the history of human rights language in political modernity. At the same time, it will attempt a decolonised history of human rights discourse, revealing how and why the idea of human rights have been viewed with suspicion by some as an imperialistic language and program. This unit will aid students interested in careers in international law, foreign aid, global politics, humanitarian organisations in learning the terminology and historical narratives they will need to make sense of those types of work.

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:

ULO1: Understand changing ideas of human rights over time and place.

ULO2: Understand critiques of human rights from feminist and postcolonial perspectives.

ULO3: Understand the appropriate legal and political structures within which human rights are articulated.

ULO4: Demonstrate advanced critical writing skills in making sustained and evidence-

based arguments about the past.

General Assessment Information

Late assignments will be penalised at 2% per day after the due date.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Article analysis	30%	No	Week 5
Weekly quizzes	20%	No	Weeks 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12
Research Essay	50%	No	Week 13

Article analysis

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **Week 5**

Weighting: **30%**

Students will locate a recent article (last 12 months) in the media about human rights somewhere in the world. They are then asked to offer a close readings of the article. They will need to identify and discuss the larger human-rights context and ideology behind the story. This assessment task helps students note their development in learning about human rights and prepare for the larger research essays to come in terms of critical analysis and writing. (1500 words).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand changing ideas of human rights over time and place.
- Understand critiques of human rights from feminist and postcolonial perspectives.
- Understand the appropriate legal and political structures within which human rights are articulated.
- Demonstrate advanced critical writing skills in making sustained and evidence-based arguments about the past.

Weekly quizzes

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 1 hours

Due: **Weeks 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12**

Weighting: **20%**

Each week students will be given an online quiz, based on the lecture and the readings. This task usually ensures adequate student preparation, kicks off good tute discussions, and enables us to identify any writing issues.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand changing ideas of human rights over time and place.
- Understand critiques of human rights from feminist and postcolonial perspectives.
- Understand the appropriate legal and political structures within which human rights are articulated.
- Demonstrate advanced critical writing skills in making sustained and evidence-based arguments about the past.

Research Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 44 hours

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **50%**

Students are expected to develop their own research essay question in consultation with teachers. Essays should include reference to at least four primary sources and ten secondary sources. The 'further reading' lists in the unit guide will be the best place to start research. The point of this task is to hone your research skills; hone your ability to make a sustained argument with evidence; and hone your ability to write persuasively. Refer to the history essay-writing guide on iLearn for information about argumentation and form. (3000 words).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand changing ideas of human rights over time and place.
- Understand critiques of human rights from feminist and postcolonial perspectives.
- Understand the appropriate legal and political structures within which human rights are articulated.
- Demonstrate advanced critical writing skills in making sustained and evidence-based arguments about the past.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Readings will be available through Leganto, accessible through the Ilearn site. Lectures will be available via Ilearn. Tutorials will be run via forums.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@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 help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

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

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.