



# IRPG830

## The Politics of International Human Rights Law

S2 External 2018

*Dept of Modern History, Politics & International Relations*

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Jonathan Symons

[jonathan.symons@mq.edu.au](mailto:jonathan.symons@mq.edu.au)

Contact via [jonathan.symons@mq.edu.au](mailto:jonathan.symons@mq.edu.au)

Hearing Hub, Level 2, South, W 66

Wednesday 2-3pm/ by appointment

Seminar leader

Mariam Farida

[mariam.farida@mq.edu.au](mailto:mariam.farida@mq.edu.au)

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MIntRel or PGDipIntRel or MIntCommMIntRel or MIntBusMIntRel or MIntRelMIntTrdeComLaw or MTransInterMIntRel or MAppAnth or MDevCult or MIntPubDip or MGlobalHIthDevStud or GradDipIntRel or GradCertIntRel or MDevStud or MPPPMDevStud or MPASRDevStud or MPPPMIntRel

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

It is impossible to comprehend or participate in contemporary international relations without an understanding of the politics of human rights. This unit explores the evolving system of international law, rules and principles that seek to promote human rights. Students will examine contemporary theories of 'human rights', the historical development of international human rights practice and its impacts within contemporary global politics. We will also examine the ways in which international human rights practice influences contemporary political controversies over issues such as refugees, sexual rights, torture and economic development.

## 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 basic concepts and development of international human rights law

Identify and explain the connections between the principles, norms, rules and decision-making procedures that make up the international human rights regime;

Undertake independent research and present that research during discussions and in written form;

Critically evaluate and analyse arguments surrounding the international human rights regime – both orally and in written work

Identify and organise relevant theories, concepts and case studies to communicate (orally and in written work) a persuasive, coherent, critical argument

Work collaboratively within tutorials to create critical, dynamic discussion

Explain and reflect upon some of the major international issues occurring within international relations and the role that human rights plays within these issues

## General Assessment Information

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#"><u>Presentation &amp; Participation</u></a>	20%	No	Various
<a href="#"><u>Online Quiz</u></a>	15%	No	Week 7
<a href="#"><u>Research Essay</u></a>	40%	No	Week 9, Friday 5pm
<a href="#"><u>Take Home Exam</u></a>	25%	No	Week 13

### Presentation & Participation

Due: **Various**

Weighting: **20%**

**Internal Students:** This task is designed to develop and assess your oral communication skills

and ability to work with others. At the beginning of semester we will assign tutorial topics to presenters who will work in pairs. Together, you will run the first 15-30 minutes of the tutorial. Any teaching and learning activity is acceptable, except you must not read a written paper. You could conduct a debate, organise a negotiation activity, prepare a scenario, conduct a quiz etc. Your goal should be to help others gain greater understanding by analysing the week's topic and linking it to current human rights issues. For example a presentation on the topic of 'International Enforcement' may consider the doctrine of "Responsibility to Protect" and perhaps link this to a contemporary case study (Syria, Myanmar etc.).

Each group-member must submit a 500- 700 word paper to ilearn by 5pm on Monday prior to your presentation. This paper should explain how you have sought to engage the group, what you have sought to achieve in the class (what do you hope other students will learn/ reflect on) and outline the resources you have drawn on. You are also encouraged to discuss your presentation plans with your seminar leader ahead of time, either in class or via email to [mariam.farida@mq.edu.au](mailto:mariam.farida@mq.edu.au) (Note, Mariam may do some external teaching and Jon may do some internal teaching). You will be assessed on five criteria:

- Engagement - how was the activity designed in order to engage other students in the issue?
- Understanding - does the presentation demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of the week's topic?
- Research - how thoroughly researched is the topic and the activity format.
- Creativity - how innovative is your method of engaging the class
- Organization of presentation - how well organised is the class that you run.

While each student must make an individual submission to ilearn you are welcome to either submit individually-prepared work or for each member of the group to submit the same paper. In either case, please include a brief note explaining the contribution that each group member has made to the activity. Further information about this task/ discussion threads will be available on ilearn.

### **External students:**

You will complete the same task as internal students, with a few minor modifications. Working with at least one other student (using online discussion tools to plan your presentation) you will lead online discussion for a week, using materials or activities to engage other students. Remember, don't post an essay online and keep presentations short. The point of the exercise is to lead discussion: which means you need to prompt and encourage participation rather than dominate it. Any form of presentation is acceptable but you should try to keep the reading/ media-viewing required for other students manageable. Think carefully about how best to draw others into the topic You could conduct a debate, work through a guided series of discussion questions, run a scenario or role play etc. Your presentation should help others to gain greater understanding by analysing the week's topic and linking it to current human rights issues.

Each group-member must submit a 500- 700 word paper to ilearn by 5pm on Monday prior to the lecture in which your topic is covered. You are also encouraged

to email [jonathan.symons@mq.edu.au](mailto:jonathan.symons@mq.edu.au) (or [mariam.farida@mq.edu.au](mailto:mariam.farida@mq.edu.au) if she is convening your week) earlier to discuss your plans. This paper should explain how you have sought to engage the group, what you have sought to achieve in the class (what do you hope other students will learn/ reflect on) and outline the resources you have drawn on. It may contain some of the posts/materials that you intend to use to prompt class discussion.

All external students are expected to engage in each other's presentations. While you will receive a preliminary presentation grade based on your own presentation, your final class participation grade will reflect both your own presentation and also your participation across the semester. You are expected to engage meaningfully in at least 70% of presentations.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts and development of international human rights law
- Undertake independent research and present that research during discussions and in written form;
- Critically evaluate and analyse arguments surrounding the international human rights regime – both orally and in written work
- Identify and organise relevant theories, concepts and case studies to communicate (orally and in written work) a persuasive, coherent, critical argument
- Work collaboratively within tutorials to create critical, dynamic discussion
- Explain and reflect upon some of the major international issues occurring within international relations and the role that human rights plays within these issues

## Online Quiz

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **15%**

An online test comprising of 15 multiple choice questions (worth 1 mark each = 15% of the total assessment) will be conducted at the end of week 7 (covering material presented in the unit up to and including week 7). The test will be administered on-line. You will have access to the test from 5pm Thursday until 5pm Friday in week 7. Once you open and start the test you will have only 30 mins in which to finish it.

This is a timed assessment and no late submissions will be accepted.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts and development of international human rights law

## Research Essay

Due: **Week 9, Friday 5pm**

Weighting: **40%**

Students are required to submit a research essay of no more than 2500 words in length.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts and development of international human rights law
- Identify and explain the connections between the principles, norms, rules and decision-making procedures that make up the international human rights regime;
- Undertake independent research and present that research during discussions and in written form;
- Critically evaluate and analyse arguments surrounding the international human rights regime – both orally and in written work
- Identify and organise relevant theories, concepts and case studies to communicate (orally and in written work) a persuasive, coherent, critical argument
- Explain and reflect upon some of the major international issues occurring within international relations and the role that human rights plays within these issues

## Take Home Exam

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **25%**

An end-of-semester take home exam will cover content drawn from the entire unit. The maximum word length will be 2000 words. The paper will be released at 9am on Thursday and must be submitted by 5pm Saturday.

This is a timed assessment and no late submissions will be accepted.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts and development of international human rights law
- Identify and explain the connections between the principles, norms, rules and decision-making procedures that make up the international human rights regime;
- Critically evaluate and analyse arguments surrounding the international human rights regime – both orally and in written work
- Identify and organise relevant theories, concepts and case studies to communicate (orally and in written work) a persuasive, coherent, critical argument
- Explain and reflect upon some of the major international issues occurring within international relations and the role that human rights plays within these issues

## Delivery and Resources

### Delivery

For lecture times and classrooms please consult the MQ Timetable website: <http://www.timetable.s.mq.edu.au>. This website will display up-to-date information on your classes and classroom locations.

**Internal students** are expected to attend the following classes each week:

Lecture: Thursday 9-9.55am 414 Sir Christopher Ondaatje Avenue - 200 Tutorial Room Note: special arrangements may be made in period immediately after 30 September when train line closes. See ilearn announcements for details.

Tutorial: Thursday 10am & 1pm.

**NOTE: Tutorials will begin in Week 2.**

### Texts

Textbook: Goodhart, Michael, ed. *Human rights: politics and practice*. Oxford University Press, 2016 (One copy of this book is also available in the library. The library also has several copies of previous (2nd edition) of the text book. Since the chapters we read in this unit all appear in the 2nd edition (in a slightly edited form) access to the 2nd edition will likely be adequate).

All readings will either be drawn from the textbook or will be available electronically (via the library or via links from the unit's ilearn page).

## Unit Schedule

**Week 1** - Thursday 2 Aug 2018

Introduction: Overview of International Human Rights Practice

**Week 2** - Thursday 9 Aug 2018

Twentieth Century History of International Human Rights

**Week 3** - Thursday 16 Aug 2018

Contemporary Theories of Human Rights

**Week 4** - Thursday 23 Aug 2018

Implementation: Socialisation, Persuasion & Civil Society

**Week 5** - Thursday 30 Aug 2018

International Enforcement

**Week 6** - Thursday 6 Sept 2018

Civil and Political Rights: Torture

**Week 7** - Thursday 13 Sept 2018

Social and Economic Rights: Development

Online quiz will be accessible on ilearn from: 13 Sept 5pm until 14 Sept 5pm.

### **MID SEMESTER BREAK: 17 Sept to 1 October 2018**

**Week 8** - Thursday 4 October 2018

Individual to Group Rights: Self-Determination

**Week 9** - Thursday 11 October 2018

Refugees & Asylum Rights

*Research Essay due Friday 12 October 2018.*

**Week 10** - Thursday 18 October 2018

Genocide and Crimes against Humanity

**Week 11** - Thursday 25 October 2018

Gender and Sexual Rights

**Week 12** - Thursday 1 November 2018

Conclusions & the Future of Human Rights

**Week 13**

Final Examination Released on ilearn at 9 am Thursday 8 November - due for submission 5 pm Saturday 10 November 2018.

## **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.*)

Undergraduate 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](http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<http://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 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](http://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](http://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](http://ask.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/](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.

## Graduate Capabilities

### PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

#### Learning outcome

- Work collaboratively within tutorials to create critical, dynamic discussion

### PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

#### Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts and development of international human rights law
- Identify and explain the connections between the principles, norms, rules and decision-making procedures that make up the international human rights regime;
- Undertake independent research and present that research during discussions and in written form;
- Critically evaluate and analyse arguments surrounding the international human rights regime – both orally and in written work
- Explain and reflect upon some of the major international issues occurring within international relations and the role that human rights plays within these issues

### PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## Learning outcomes

- Identify and explain the connections between the principles, norms, rules and decision-making procedures that make up the international human rights regime;
- Undertake independent research and present that research during discussions and in written form;
- Critically evaluate and analyse arguments surrounding the international human rights regime – both orally and in written work

## PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- Undertake independent research and present that research during discussions and in written form;
- Identify and organise relevant theories, concepts and case studies to communicate (orally and in written work) a persuasive, coherent, critical argument

## PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- Undertake independent research and present that research during discussions and in written form;
- Critically evaluate and analyse arguments surrounding the international human rights regime – both orally and in written work
- Identify and organise relevant theories, concepts and case studies to communicate (orally and in written work) a persuasive, coherent, critical argument
- Work collaboratively within tutorials to create critical, dynamic discussion
- Explain and reflect upon some of the major international issues occurring within international relations and the role that human rights plays within these issues

## PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- Critically evaluate and analyse arguments surrounding the international human rights regime – both orally and in written work
- Explain and reflect upon some of the major international issues occurring within international relations and the role that human rights plays within these issues

## Changes from Previous Offering

The Unit is being convened by Jonathan Symons for the second time in 2015. Topics and readings have been slightly reorganised in response to student feedback in 2014 (for example, there is now no lecture in the final week).

## Changes since First Published

Date	Description
01/08/2018	Added Mariam Farida as teaching staff & corrected a typo.