Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution of Higher Education
PEOPLES' FRIENDSHIP UNIVERSITY OF RUSSIA NAMED AFTER PATRICE LUMUMBA
RUDN University

Law Institute, International Law Department

educational division (faculty/institute/academy) as higher education programme developer

COURSE SYLLABUS

PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE UN SYSTEM
course title

Recommended by the Didactic Council for the Education Field of:

40.04.01 Jurisprudence

field of studies / speciality code and title

The course instruction is implemented within the professional education programme of higher education:

International Protection of Human Rights

higher education programme profile/specialisation title

2024

1. COURSE GOAL(s)

The main purpose of the course "Protection of Human Rights in the UN System" is to teach basic terminology and categories which are used in the international human rights law, basic human rights treaties etc. The main objective is to familiarize students with such issues as establishment and development of basic principles and norms of international human rights law, development, elaboration and adoption of key human rights treaties and the activities of the human rights treaty bodies, activities of main and subsidiary bodies of the United Nations, different suggestions on the improving the functioning of the UN human rights machinery, develop skills of unassisted analysis of international treaties and practical application of the knowledge received.

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR LEARNING OUTCOMES

Mastering the course is aimed at the Master's students' formation of the following competencies (part of competencies):

Table 2.1. List of competences that students acquire through the course study

Competence code	Competence descriptor	Competence formation indicators (within this course)
GPC-3	Able to interpret legal acts in a competent manner, including in situations where there are gaps and conflicts of law norms.	GPC-3.2. Has skills in interpreting legal acts, including in situations where there are gaps and conflicts in the law.
		GPC-3.3. Provides qualified explanations of the content and application of legal norms.
PC-6	Able to give qualified legal advice in specific areas of international legal regulation.	PC-6.1. Aware of the specifics and methodology of advising in specific areas of international law regulation.

3. COURSE IN HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The course refers to the core/variable/elective* component of (B1) block of the higher educational programme curriculum.

* - Underline whatever applicable.

Within the higher education programme students also master other (modules) and / or internships that contribute to the achievement of the expected learning outcomes as results of the course study.

Table 3.1. The list of the higher education programme components/disciplines that contribute to the achievement of the expected learning outcomes as the course study results

Competence code	Competence descriptor	Previous courses/modules*	Subsequent courses/modules*
GPC-3	Able to interpret legal acts in a competent manner, including in situations where there are gaps and conflicts of law norms.	Philosophy of Law / Философия права	Research Work / Научно-исследовательская работа Internship / Производственная практика, в т.ч. преддипломная
PC-6	Able to give qualified legal advice in specific areas of international legal regulation.		Environmental Protection and Human Rights / Защита экологических прав человека International Labour Rights in the Global Economy / Международное трудовое право и глобальная экономика Human Rights, SDGs and Challenges of the XXI Century / Права человека, Цели в области устойчивого развития и вызовы XXI века International Business and Human Rights / Международный бизнес и права человека Discrimination and Gender Issues in Contemporary International Law / Дискриминация и гендерные вопросы в современном международном праве Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Rights Protection / Защита прав коренных народов и меньшинств International Humanitarian Law / Международное гуманитарное право Externship and Pre-Degree Internship /

Competence code	Competence descriptor	Previous courses/modules*	Subsequent courses/modules*
			Производственная практика, в т. ч. преддипломная

* - filled in based on the competency matrix

4. COURSE WORKLOAD AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

The total workload of the course is 3 credits (108 academic hours).

*Table 4.1. Types of academic activities during the periods of higher education programme mastering (**full-time training**) *

Types of academic activities		TOTAL, academic hours	Semester / training modules			
			1	2	3	4
Classroom learning, academic hours		*108*				*108*
including:						
Lectures (LC)		-				-
Lab work (LW)		-				-
Seminars (workshops/tutorials) (S)		32				32
Self-study (ies), academic hours		*38*				*38*
Evaluation and assessment (exam or pass/fail grading)		*38*				*38*
Course workload	academic hours	**108**				**108**
	credits	**3**				**3**

*Table 4.2. Types of academic activities for **part-time** education**

Types of academic activities		TOTAL, academic hours	Semester / training modules			
			1	2	3	4
Classroom learning, academic hours						
including:						
Lectures (LC)						
Lab work (LW)						
Seminars (workshops/tutorials) (S)						
Self-study (ies), academic hours						
Evaluation and assessment (exam or pass/fail grading)						
Course workload	academic hours					
	credits					

* - must be completed in case of implementation of the program in part-time form

Table 4.3. Types of academic activities for extramural form of study

Types of academic activities		TOTAL, academic hours	Semester / training modules			
			1	2	3	4
Classroom learning, academic hours						
including:						
Lectures (LC)						
Lab work (LW)						
Seminars (workshops/tutorials) (S)						
Self-study (ies), academic hours						
Evaluation and assessment (exam or pass/fail grading)						
Course workload	academic hours					
	credits					

* To be filled in regarding the higher education programme correspondence training mode.

5. COURSE CONTENTS

Table 5.1. Course contents and academic activities types

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Academic activities types
Section 1. Human rights in the history of international relations and international law	Topic 1.1. The notion of human rights. The origins of human rights. Classification of human rights. Generations of human rights. National law on protection of human rights and international human rights law: interdependence and interrelation.	S
	Topic 1.2. Normative consolidation of human rights in international legal acts within the framework of the League of Nations. League of Nations minority protection system. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).	S
Section 2. UN Charter and the principle of respect for and protection of human rights. International Bill of Human Rights. International Covenant	Topic 2.1. The UN Charter: drafting and adoption. Purposes and principles of the Charter. Binding nature of the UN Charter provisions.	S
	Topic 2.2. International Bill of Human Rights: a) History of adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, and its	S

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Academic activities types
on Civil and Political Rights, 1966 (ICCPR)	significance for the development of international law. Legal Content. b) History of adoption of the ICCPR and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966 (ICESCR). Basic civil and political rights in the ICCPR. Human Rights Committee as monitoring body of the ICCPR. Optional Protocols to the ICCPR.	
Section 3. International Bill of Human Rights: legal content. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966 (ICESCR)	Topic 3.1. International Bill of Human Rights: Economic, social and cultural rights in the system of main human rights. The list of economic, social and cultural rights enshrined in the ICESCR. Obligations imposed by the Covenant on State Parties.	S
	Topic 3.2. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as a monitoring body of the ICESCR. Adoption of the 2008 Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.	S
Section 4. The International Conferences on Human Rights and their outcomes	Topic 4.1. International Conference on Human Rights, Teheran, 1968. Final Act of the International Conference on Human Rights, Teheran, 1968. World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 1993. Millennium Summit, 2000. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Post 2015 agenda. Sustainable Development Goals.	S
Section 5. The competence of the principal organs of the UN and of the specialized agencies of the UN to protect human rights	Topic 5.1. The main UN bodies: status and powers in the field of human rights (General Assembly, Security Council, ECOSOC, ICJ, Secretariat).	S
	Topic 5.2. UN specialized agencies in the human rights protection system (human rights protection within: UNESCO, WIPO, WHO, ILO, UN Specialized Financial Institutions).	S
Section 6. The competence of the subsidiary human rights organs of the UN	Topic 6.1. Activities of the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. Legal and political reasons for the reform of the UN human rights mechanism.	S
	Topic 6.2. Powers and activities of the UN Human Rights Council and its Advisory Committee.	S

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Academic activities types
	Universal periodic Review mechanism. The procedure for consideration of individual complaints.	
	Topic 6.3. United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.	S
Section 7. Core international human rights treaties and their monitoring mechanisms - human rights treaty bodies	Topic 7.1. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol. The Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.	S
Section 8. Responsibility for violations of human rights	Topic 8.1. International crimes: concept and types. International Criminal Court. Concept "Responsibility to protect." Responsibility of States for human rights violations	S
	Topic 8.2. International fact-finding mechanisms dealing with human rights violations.	S
	Topic 8.3. Extraterritorial application of human rights. Business and human rights.	S
Section 9. National mechanisms for the protection of human rights	Topic 9.1. Provisions of international human rights instruments in the national legal systems. Domestic remedies. National human rights institutions and the 1993 Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions The role of NGOs in the promotion and protection of human rights at the national level.	S

* - to be filled in only for **full** -time training: *LC - lectures; LW - lab work; S - seminars.*

6. CLASSROOM EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

Table 6.1. Classroom equipment and technology support requirements

Type of academic activities	Classroom equipment	Specialised educational / laboratory equipment, software, and materials for course study (if necessary)
Lecture	Classroom for lectures, equipped with a set of specialized furniture; a set of devices including portable multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection.	Multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection. Software: Office 365 (MS Office, MS Teams), Chrome
Lab	Classroom for lab work, group and individual consultations, evaluation and assessment, equipped with a set of specialized furniture; a set of devices including portable multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection.	Multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection. Software: Office 365 (MS Office, MS Teams), Chrome
Seminars	Classroom for seminars, group and individual consultations, evaluation and assessment, equipped with a set of specialized furniture; a set of devices including portable multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection.	Multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection. Software: Office 365 (MS Office, MS Teams), Chrome; Specialized software: Trados
Computer classroom	Computer classroom for academic activity, group and individual consultations, evaluation and assessment, equipped with a set of specialized furniture; a set of devices including portable multimedia projector, 30 personal computers, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection.	Multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection. Software: Office 365 (MS Office, MS Teams), Chrome
Self-studies Classroom	Classroom for Self-studies, equipped with a set of specialized furniture; a set of devices including portable multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection.	Multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection. Software: Office 365 (MS Office, MS Teams), Chrome
Courtroom	Classroom for court hearing simulation equipped with a set of specialized furniture; a set of devices including portable multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet	Multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection. Software: Office 365

Type of academic activities	Classroom equipment	Specialised educational / laboratory equipment, software, and materials for course study (if necessary)
	connection.	(MS Office, MS Teams), Chrome

* The premises for students' self-studies are subject to **MANDATORY** mention

7. RESOURCES RECOMMENDED FOR COURSE STUDY

Main reading (sources):

1. De Schutter, O. International Human Rights Law: Cases, Materials, Commentary / ed. by O. De Schutter. – 3rd ed. – Cambridge University Press, 2019.
2. Alston, P., Goodman, R. International Human Rights. The Successor to International Human Rights in Context: Law, Politics and Morals. Text and Materials / ed. by P. Alston, R. Goodman. – Oxford University Press, 2013.

Additional (optional) reading (sources):

3. Abashidze A. Role of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in implementation and development of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms // Вестник Российского университета дружбы народов. Серия: юридические науки. - М: РУДН, 2012, №1. - C. 185-194.
4. Abashidze A. The Complementary Role of General Comments in Enhancing the Implementation of Treaty Bodies' Recommendations and Views (the Example of CESCR) // New Challenges for the UN Human Rights Machinery. What Future for the UN Treaty Body System and the Human Rights Council Procedures? / Edited by: M. Cherif Bassiouni, William A. Schabas - Antwerp: Intersentia Publishers, 2011. - C. 137-148.
5. Egan, S. Strengthening the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Body System / S. Egan // Human Rights Law Review. – 2013. – Vol. 13 (2). – P. 209–243.
6. Egan, S. The UN Human Rights Treaty System: Law and Procedure / S. Egan. – Dublin: Bloomsbury, 2011. – 524 p.
7. Fabrizio Marella. The human right to water and ICSID arbitration: two sides of a same coin or an example of fragmentation of international law? // Актуальные проблемы современного международного права: Материалы ежегодной межвузовской научно-практической конференции. Москва, 9-10 апреля 2010 г. Часть II / Под ред. А.Х. Абашидзе, М.Н. Копылова, Е.В. Киселевой. - М: РУДН, 2011. - C. 11-42.
8. Felice, D.G. A voice not an echo: universal periodic review and the UN treaty body system / D.G. Felice // Human rights law review. – 2007. – Vol. 7 (1). – P. 109–139.
9. Kjaerum, M. State Reports // International Human Rights Monitoring Mechanisms. Essays in Honour of Jakob Th.Moeller / M. Kjaerum; ed. by A. Gudmundur et al. – 2nd revised. – The Hague–Boston–London: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2009. – P. 17–24.

10. Koneva A. Challenges facing the human rights treaty body system // Вестник Российского университета дружбы народов. Серия: юридические науки. - М: РУДН, 2014, №1. - С. 245-255.
11. New Challenges for the UN Human Rights Machinery. What Future for the UN Treaty Body System and the Human Rights Council Procedures? / Edited by: M. Cherif Bassiouni, William A. Schabas - Antwerp: Intersentia Publishers, 2011.
12. Schabas, W.A. On the Binding Nature of the Findings of the Treaty Bodies // New Challenges for the UN Human Rights Machinery. What Future for the UN Treaty Body System and the Human Rights Council Procedures? / W.A. Schabas; ed. by M.Ch. Bassiouni, W.A. Schabas. – Antwerp: Intersentia Publishers, 2011. – P. 97–107.
13. Smith, Rh.K.M. Textbook on International Human Rights / Rh.K.M. Smith – 6th ed. – Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014. – 448 p.
14. Surya P. Subedi. The Effectiveness of the UN Human Rights System. Reform and the Judicialisation of Human Rights System / ed. by Surya P. Subedi. – Routledge, 2017.
15. The Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights. A commentary / edited by M. Langford, B. Porter, R. Brown, J. Rossi. Pretoria University Press, 2014.
16. The United Nations and Human Rights: A Critical Appraisal / Eds.: Frédéric Mégret, Philip Alston. – 2nd ed. – Oxford University Press, 2020.
17. Tomuschat, C. Human Rights: Between Idealism and Realism / Ed. by C. Tomuschat. – 3rd ed. – Oxford University Press, 2014.
18. UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies / Eds.: Helen Keller, Universität Zürich, Geir Ulfstein. - Cambridge University Press, 2012.

Internet-(based) sources:

1. Electronic libraries with access for RUDN students
- RUDN Electronic library system http://lib.rudn.ru/MegaPro/Web
- Electronic library system «University Library online» http://www.biblioclub.ru
- Electronic Library «URAIT» http://www.biblio-online.ru
- Electronic library system «Student. Consultant»www.studentlibrary.ru
- Electronic library system «Lan» http://e.lanbook.com/
- Electronic library system "Troitskyi most"

2. Databases and search engines:
- Electronic Legal and Regulatory Documentation Fund http://docs.cntd.ru/
- Search system Yandex https://www.yandex.ru/
- Search system Google https://www.google.ru/
- SCOPUS http://www.elsevierscience.ru/products/scopus/

UN Audiovisual Library of International Law (http://legal.un.org/avl/), The Dag Hammarskjöld Library (http://digitallibrary.un.org/), Springer (https://rd.springer.com/).

*Training toolkit for self- studies to master the course *:*

* The training toolkit for self- studies to master the course is placed   on the course page in the university telecommunication training and information system under the set procedure.

8. ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT AND GRADING SYSTEM* FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENTS' COMPETENCES LEVEL UPON COURSE COMPLETION

The assessment toolkit and the grading system* to evaluate the competences formation level (competences in part) upon the course study completion are specified in the Appendix to the course syllabus.

* The assessment toolkit and the grading system are formed on the basis of the requirements of the relevant local normative act of RUDN University (regulations / order).

DEVELOPER:

Head of the Department of of International Law, Full Professor		A. Kh. Abashidze
Position, Name of the Department	Signature	Full name

HEAD OF EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Head of the Department of of International Law, Full Professor		A. Kh. Abashidze
Position, Name of the Department	Signature	Full name

HEAD OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Associate professor of the Department of International Law, Candidate of Legal Sciences		S.M. Kopylov
Position, Name of the Department	Signature	Full name