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**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**

International Protection of human rights

course title

**Recommended by the Didactic Council for the Education Field of:**

40.03.01 Jurisprudence

field of studies / speciality code and title

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

Jurisprudence

higher education programme profile/specialisation title

## 1. COURSE GOAL (s)

The aim of the course “International Protection of Human Rights” is to teach basic terminology and categories which are used in the international human rights law. The main objective is to familiarize students with the key issues in the field of international protection of human rights as basic human rights treaties, establishment and development of basic principles and norms of international human rights law, activities of the human rights promotion and protection mechanisms on the universal and regional level, giving special attention to the status and powers of the human rights treaty bodies, main and subsidiary bodies of the United Nations as examples of the former, and regional instruments and mechanisms within Council of Europe (CoE), European Union (EU), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Organization of American States (OAS), African Union (AU), League of Arab States (LAS), etc. The aim of the course is also to teach students to assess different suggestions on the improving the functioning of the UN human rights machinery, as well as to 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 Bachelor’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)
PC-4	Able to provide legal assistance to citizens and organizations and other types of legal services, to give qualified professional opinions and advice in specific areas of legal activity	PC-4.1 Have the skills of professional communication with citizens and organizations to identify and formulate a legal problem and establish legally relevant circumstances;
		PC-4.2. On the basis of the analytical data obtained, determines the ways provided for by the legislation to solve a specific legal problem, correctly assesses their risks, advantages and disadvantages, develops a plan for their implementation;
		PC-4.3. Knows and applies the rules for issuing a legal opinion and written consultation;
		PC-4.4. Knows and adheres to the principles of professional ethics and rules of effective communication in the provision of legal assistance and legal services.

## 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*
PC-4	Able to provide legal assistance to citizens and organizations and other types of legal services, to give qualified professional opinions and advice in specific areas of legal activity	Civil Procedure Municipal law of Russia Antitrust law Local Self-Government in the Decisions of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation Banking law	Professional skills of a lawyer Criminological profiling as a means of crime prevention Workshop on preparation of criminal procedural documents Out-of-court resolution of disputes and conflicts Responsibility of local government bodies and officials: legislation and court practice Basics of medical law Basics of forensic expertise in civil court proceedings Municipal service of the Russian Federation Basics of forensic activities in the Russian Federation Preparation of legal positions in the higher courts Basics of forensic examination in criminal and administrative proceedings Current problems of the theory of state and law. Part 2 Lawyer in criminal proceedings Legal opinions: workshop Undergraduate practice Registration, preparation for the defense procedure and defense of the final qualification work Student Advisory Bureau

\* - 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 for full-time education

Types of academic activities	TOTAL, academic hours	Semester / training modules			
		D	E	F	G
<i>Classroom learning, academic hours</i>	16		16		
including:					
Lectures (LC)	-	-	-		
Lab work (LW)	-	-	-		
Seminars (workshops/tutorials) (S)	16	-	16		
<i>Self-study (ies), academic hours</i>	74	-	74		
<i>Evaluation and assessment (exam or pass/fail grading)</i>	18	-	18		
<b>Course Workload</b>	academic hours	<b>108</b>	-	<b>108</b>	
	credits	<b>3</b>	-	<b>3</b>	

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

Types of academic activities	TOTAL, academic hours	Semester / training modules			
		7	8		
<i>Classroom learning, academic hours</i>	16	16			
including:					
Lectures (LC)					
Lab work (LW)					
Seminars (workshops/tutorials) (S)	16	16			
<i>Self-study (ies), academic hours</i>	65	65			
<i>Evaluation and assessment (exam or pass/fail grading)</i>	27	27			
<b>Course Workload</b>	academic hours	<b>108</b>	<b>108</b>		
	credits	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>		

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

## 5. COURSE CONTENTS

*Table 5.1. Course contents and academic activity 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. Classification of human rights. Generations of human rights. Philosophical and legal approaches.	S
	Topic 1.2. The national legal experience of securing human rights: the Magna Carta of 1215, the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America in 1776, the French Declaration of Human and Civil Rights of 1789.	S
	Topic 1.3. 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. Basic human rights instruments and provisions on the Universal level	Topic 2.1. The UN Charter and the principle of respect and protection of human rights. International Bill of Human Rights: Legal content (Part I. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966).	S
	Topic 2.2. International Bill of Human Rights: legal content (Part II. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966).	S
Section 3. Universal system of human rights	Topic 3.1. The principal organs of the UN and their status and powers in the field of human rights.	S

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Academic activities types
protection, Part I: The system of UN Charter bodies and their powers in the field of human rights	Topic 3.2. UN subsidiary bodies: status and powers in the field of human rights. Activities of the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. Reasons for the reform of the UN Commission on human rights.	S
	Topic 3.3. Powers and activities of the UN Human Rights Council: Advisory Committee. Universal periodic Review mechanism, Special Procedures, the procedure for consideration of individual complaints in the UN HR Council.	S
	Topic 3.4. United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. UN specialized agencies in the human rights protection system (human rights protection within: UNESCO, WIPO, WHO, ILO, UN Specialized Financial Institutions).	S
Section 4. Universal system of human rights protection, Part II: Treaty body system protection	1. Development and adoption of the main international conventional mechanisms (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
	2. Powers of the Treaty Bodies and their comparative analysis. The effectiveness of the Treaty Bodies.	S
Section 5. Reginal and Sub-regional systems of human rights protection	Topic 4.1. Protection of human rights in the framework of the Council of Europe.	S
	Topic 4.2. Inter-American System for the protection of human rights.	S
	Topic 4.3. African System for the protection of human rights.	S
	Topic 4.4. Protection of human rights in the framework of the ASEAN, OIS, Commonwealth of Independent States, OSCE and EU.	S

\* - filled in **only for full-time** education: LC - lectures; LW - laboratory work; S - seminars.

## 6. CLASSROOM EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

*Table 6.1. Classroom Equipment and Technology Support Requirements*

<b>Type of academic activities</b>	<b>Classroom Equipment</b>	<b>Specialised educational / laboratory equipment, software, and materials for course study</b>  (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.	Specialized educational/laboratory equipment, software and materials for the development of the discipline.
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.	Specialized educational/laboratory equipment, software and materials for the development of the discipline.
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.	Specialized educational/laboratory equipment, software and materials for the development of the discipline.
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.	Specialized educational/laboratory equipment, software and materials for the development of the discipline.
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.	Specialized educational/laboratory equipment, software and materials for the development of the discipline.
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 connection.	Specialized educational/laboratory equipment, software and materials for the development of the discipline.

\* - It is necessary to specify a classroom for self-study of students

## **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. – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. - С. 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. - С. 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. - С. 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. – 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. – Oxford University Press, 2020.
17. Tomuschat, C. *Human Rights: Between Idealism and Realism* / Ed. by C. Tomuschat. – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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/>

\* - Learning toolkits for self-studies in the RUDN Learning materials for self-studies on the relevant course pages in TUIS

## **8. ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION TOOLKIT**

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).

### **DEVELOPERS:**

Head of the Department of  
of International Law,  
Doctor of legal sciences,  
professor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Position, Name of the Department

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

A. K. Abashidze

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full name

### **HEAD OF EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT**

Head of the Department of  
of International Law,  
Doctor of legal sciences,  
professor

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Position, Name of the Department

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Signature

A. K. Abashidze

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Full name



**HEAD OF THE HIGHER  
EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Head of the Department of  
Administrative and Financial  
Law, Doctor of legal sciences,  
professor

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Position, Name of the Department

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Signature

O. A. Jastrebov

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Full name