

# **International System of human rights protection**

(4 ECTS)

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## **1. Course Description**

### a) Prerequisites

The present syllabus is aimed at faculty teaching this course, their teaching assistants, and students of the degree program 030201.68 ‘Political Science’, master’s program ‘Political Analysis and Public Policy’, studying human rights.

This syllabus meets the standards required by:

- Higher School of Economics,
- degree program 030201.68 ‘Political Science’, master’s program ‘Political Analysis and Public Policy’,
- and the curriculum of the master’s program ‘Political Analysis and Public Policy’ as of 2011.

### b) Abstract

This class will focus on the inception and promulgation of human rights. This topic will examine the development of international human rights regimes prior to, and after, World War II. It will also trace the ideologies of national sovereignty and the burgeoning notion of an international community, commencing with the League of Nations, through the experiences of World War II, and onwards to the creation of the United Nations. Finally, it will examine rival philosophical bases for the derivation of rights: universality versus cultural relativity. Then we will discuss the current system of human rights protection – from the International Bill of Human Rights and its implementation procedure, to the regional systems of human rights protection.

**2. Learning Objectives**

By the end of the course, the students are expected to:

- Know the major tools of human rights protection, internationally and locally,
- Know the main tool of human rights monitoring (UPR, HR reports)
- Know and able to analyze the data from international system of human rights monitoring,
  - Be able to recognize the main controversy between these rights and other types of rights and freedoms,
  - Be able to apply standards of human rights protection,
  - Be able to distinguish between infringements of law and human rights violations;

**Course Plan**

1.	<b>Human Rights, Historical Context, Development, and Institutions. Human Rights in International Relations.</b>	8	3	1	4
2.	<b>Way to Universal Declaration. Magna Carta, Bill of Rights, Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen.</b>	16	6	2	8
3.	<b>The United Nation Treaties and Institutions. United Nation Charter.</b>	16	6	2	8
4.	<b>International Bill of Human Rights (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Two International Covenants). ECOSOC</b>	16	6	2	8

5	<b>UN Treaty-Based Tribunals. International Criminal Court. International Court of Justice.</b>	16	6	2	8
6	<b>UN Human Rights Council (ex-Committee). Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Committee Against Torture. Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women</b>	16	6	2	8
7	<b>Implementation mechanism in human rights. Universal periodic review. State complains. Individual complains. Independent inquiry</b>	16	6	2	8
8	<b>International human rights organization. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch. Open lecture.</b>	16	6	2	8
9	<b>Regional systems of human rights protection. European Court of Human Rights. OSCE.</b>	16	6	2	8
10	<b>Effectiveness of international system of HR protection</b>	16	6	2	8

### **3. Reading List**

1. Textbook on International Human Rights. Ed. Rhona K.M. Smith. OUP, 2012
2. Provost R. International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. Treaties, Cases and Analysis. CUP, 2006
3. Research Handbook on International Human Rights Law. Edited by Sarah Joseph, Adam McBeth. Edward Elgar, 2010.
4. David P. Forsythe. Human Rights in International Relations. CUP, 2006

### **4. Grading System**

**Three written answers 60 – 20 % each, class attendance and active**

participation – 20 % (each disruptions of school attendance – 2 % off the grade)

Oral presentation – 20 %

final exam 20 % (if you have missed 4 and more classes or your own presentation)

$G_{final} = 0.2 \text{ written answer1, } 0.2 \text{ written answer2, } 0.2 \text{ written answer 3} + 0.2 \text{ Oral presentation} + 0.2 \text{ attendance, } 0.2 \text{ final exam (not obligatory)}$

1. Please make sure that your papers make an argument and are analytical (that is, discuss several important themes using specific examples from the readings); purely descriptive papers will receive lower grades.
2. All papers should be emailed to me and my teaching assistant by the beginning of class for which it is due, unless another due date and time has been given. No hard copies of any written work need to be turned in unless requested. Unless you have made arrangements with me beforehand, **late assignments will be penalized one letter grade per day they are late**, particularly when papers are related to the discussion that will take place in class that day.
3. **Please note:** *Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. If you borrow ideas, writings, etc., from other people and do not give them credit, the assignment will be given an automatic zero, and you will most likely be given a NC in the class.*
4. **Please note: absence more than four classes per course will cost you ALL grades for attendance, no matter why it has happened.**

## 5. Examination Type

Final exam will be held in the form of presentation written response to the questions discussed during the course.

## 6. Methods of Instruction

The course is built upon the combination of modern educational techniques. It combines active and interactive forms of teaching. It relies more on discussion and group work besides the conventional lecturing. So the students are supposed to actively participate in the in-class group work. They are also expected to do their homework and additional reading.

#### **7. Special Equipment and Software Support (if required)**

The course requires a computer (laptop) and projector for Power Point presentations.