



UNIwersYTET
IM. ADAMA MICKIEWICZA
W POZNANIU

International Protection of Human Rights

Educational subject description sheet

Basic information

Study programme European Legal Studies Speciality - Organizational unit Faculty of Law and Administration Study level First-cycle programme Study form Full-time Education profile General academic		Didactic cycle 2025/26 Subject code 10ELSS.12N.04835.25 Lecture languages English Course type Obligatory Block Subjects not assigned
Subject coordinator	Katarzyna Woźniak-Boińska, Zdzisław Kędzia	
Lecturer	Zdzisław Kędzia	
Period Semester 2	Activities and hours • Lecture: 30, Exam; including sub-activities: ◦ Synchronous lecture: 30	Number of ECTS points 4

Goals

Code	Goal
C1	Students should acquire advanced knowledge of a) the universal protection of human rights and the relevant challenges; b) international human rights law, c) competencies and methods of work of international organs and bodies and their effectiveness; and d) the accessibility by the rights holder to the international procedures set up to protect human rights.

Subject learning outcomes

Code	Outcomes in terms of	Learning outcomes	Examination methods
Knowledge - Student:			
W1	has knowledge about the role of human rights in the contemporary world and their sources, with special taking into the tensions between the universal nature of human rights and the cultural diversity, as well as about the dynamics of the relevant dimensions of the universality of human rights	ELS_K1_W01, ELS_K1_W04	Test, Essay
W2	can diagnose the current challenges to the implementation of human rights and explain impact of human rights and their methodology on the solution of the global problems, such as the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, conflict prevention and sustainable resolution, combatting inequality and social exclusion, as well as on the designing domestic policies in such areas as education, health, labor	ELS_K1_W01	Test, Essay
W3	knows universal and at a basic level the regional legal systems and mechanisms serving the protection of human rights; competencies and methods of work of international organs and bodies and their effectiveness; and the accessibility of the international procedures set up to protect human rights by an individual	ELS_K1_W04, ELS_K1_W07, ELS_K1_W11	Test, Essay
W4	understands the issue of responsibility and accountability of different duty bearers for the respect for, protection of and fulfilment of human rights, both states and non/state actors, such as human rights defender and non/governmental movement, as well as business	ELS_K1_W01	Test, Essay
W5	knows the basic elements of the human rights based approach to development programming and impact assessments. Has the ability to prepare typical complaints related to proceedings before international human rights bodies judicial and quasi-judicial. Can analyze and benefit from the internationally human rights case law	ELS_K1_W04	Test, Essay
W6	understands the role and responsibility of the European Union in the promotion and protection of human rights at the universal level, as well as the place of human rights in the EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy (the concept of resilience and human rights))	ELS_K1_W02, ELS_K1_W04, ELS_K1_W09, ELS_K1_W11	Test, Essay
Skills - Student:			
U1	has knowledge about the role of human rights in the contemporary world and their sources, with special taking into the tensions between the universal nature of human rights and the cultural diversity, as well as about the dynamics of the relevant dimensions of the universality of human rights	ELS_K1_U01	Test, Essay

Code	Outcomes in terms of	Learning outcomes	Examination methods
U2	knows universal and at a basic level the regional legal systems and mechanisms serving the protection of human rights; competencies and methods of work of international organs and bodies and their effectiveness; and the accessibility of the international procedures set up to protect human rights by an individual	ELS_K1_U01, ELS_K1_U02, ELS_K1_U03, ELS_K1_U04	Test, Essay
U3	knows universal and at a basic level the regional legal systems and mechanisms serving the protection of human rights; competencies and methods of work of international organs and bodies and their effectiveness; and the accessibility of the international procedures set up to protect human rights by an individual	ELS_K1_U05, ELS_K1_U06	Test, Essay
U4	understands the issue of responsibility and accountability of different duty bearers for the respect for, protection of and fulfilment of human rights, both states and non/state actors, such as human rights defender and non/governmental movement, as well as business	ELS_K1_U07	Test, Essay
U5	knows the basic elements of the human rights based approach to development programming and impact assessments. Has the ability to prepare typical complaints related to proceedings before international human rights bodies judicial and quasi-judicial. Can analyze and benefit from the internationally human rights case law	ELS_K1_U05, ELS_K1_U07	Test, Essay
U6	understands the role and responsibility of the European Union in the promotion and protection of human rights at the universal level, as well as the place of human rights in the EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy (the concept of resilience and human rights))	ELS_K1_U04	Test, Essay
Social competences - Student:			
K1	knows universal and at a basic level the regional legal systems and mechanisms serving the protection of human rights; competencies and methods of work of international organs and bodies and their effectiveness; and the accessibility of the international procedures set up to protect human rights by an individual	ELS_K1_K02	Test, Essay
K2	understands the issue of responsibility and accountability of different duty bearers for the respect for, protection of and fulfilment of human rights, both states and non/state actors, such as human rights defender and non/governmental movement, as well as business	ELS_K1_K02	Test, Essay
K3	knows the basic elements of the human rights based approach to development programming and impact assessments. Has the ability to prepare typical complaints related to proceedings before international human rights bodies judicial and quasi-judicial. Can analyze and benefit from the internationally human rights case law	ELS_K1_K02	Test, Essay

Study content

No.	Course content	Subject learning outcomes	Activities
1.	The notion of human rights as legal standards and their sources; rights holders and their entitlements; duty bearers and their obligations, responsibilities and accountability; functions of human rights	W1, W4, U1, U4	Lecture, Synchronous lecture
2.	The universality of human rights and the “clash of civilizations”; impact of human rights on international law, international relations and the lives of people; the principles of international cooperation for human rights; key challenges to human rights: structural challenges and implementations gaps	W1, W2, U1	Lecture, Synchronous lecture
3.	International human rights law: UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, treaty law (10 core conventions) and the impact of soft law	W3, W6, U3, U6, K1	Lecture, Synchronous lecture
4.	The principle of equality and non-discrimination; Civil and political rights – general characteristics, catalogue, interpretations, implementation; Economic, social and cultural rights – general characteristics, catalogue, interpretations, implementation; the principle of equal value and interdependence of all human rights	W3, U2, K1	Lecture, Synchronous lecture
5.	Mainstreaming human rights within the UN system - opportunities and hazards; programmatic and institutional framework of the UN human rights programme, its structure potential and challenges; the role of the Security Council (responsibility to protect), General Assembly, ECOSOC, International Court of Justice and international jurisdiction (tribunals, hybrid courts)	W3, W4, U2, U4, K1	Lecture, Synchronous lecture
6.	Human Rights Council as a standard setting, deliberative, monitoring and intervening body; Universal Periodic Review; Special Procedures; complaint procedure; actual impact on the condition of human rights worldwide	W3, U2, K1	Lecture, Synchronous lecture
7.	UN system of human rights treaty bodies – independent status, mandate and composition; reporting by state-parties; complaint procedure; interpretation of human rights treaties; actual impact	W3, U2, K1	Lecture, Synchronous lecture
8.	High Commissioner for Human Rights: process of creation, status, mandate and powers; means of influence and the actual role in the protection of human rights and political conditions; evolution of the UN human rights program;	W2, W3, U2, K1	Lecture, Synchronous lecture
9.	Human rights based approach to development programming (the EU rights based approach) – the added value; basic principles; obstacles to the practical application; the value of human rights impact	W4, W5, U4, U5, K2, K3	Lecture, Synchronous lecture

Additional information

Activities	Teaching and learning methods and activities
Lecture	Lecture with a multimedia presentation of selected issues, Problem-based lecture, Discussion, Work with text, Case study, Audio and/or video demonstrations, Activating method - "brainstorming", Activating method - SWOT analysis, Activating method - decision tree

Activities	Credit conditions
Lecture	<p>excellent (A ; 5,0):</p> <p>a) excellent knowledge of legal provisions and case law</p> <p>b) very good background for discussing international human rights protection</p> <p>very good (B+; 4,5):</p> <p>a) very good knowledge of legal provisions and case law</p> <p>b) very good background for discussing international human rights protection</p> <p>good (B ; 4,0):</p> <p>a) good knowledge of legal provisions and case law</p> <p>b) good background for discussing international human rights protection</p> <p>average (C+,3,5)</p> <p>a) average knowledge legal provisions and case law</p> <p>b) average background for discussing international human rights protection</p> <p>satisfactory (C; 3,0):</p> <p>a) satisfactory knowledge of legal provisions and case law</p> <p>b) satisfactory background for discussing international human rights protection</p> <p>unsatisfactory (D ; 2,0):</p> <p>a) unsatisfactory knowledge of legal provisions and case law</p> <p>b) unsatisfactory background for discussing international human rights protection</p>

Literature

Obligatory

1. Wolfgang Benedek (ed.), Understanding Human Rights: Manual on Human Rights Education, Intersentia 2012 Andrew Clapham, Human Rights: A very short introduction, Oxford University Press, 2015 Howard Davis, Human Rights Law Directions, Oxford University Press, 2016 Olivier de Schutter, International Human Rights Law, Cambridge University Press, 2014
2. Zdzisław Kędzia, Reinforcement of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, European Yearbook on Human Rights 2014, Intersentia, Various publications on the site of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights - www.ohchr.org Human Rights Diplomacy: Contemporary Perspectives, Michael O'Flaherty, Zdzisław Kędzia, Amrei Müller, George Ulrich (ed.), Martinus Nijhoff Publications, Leiden - Boston 2011

Calculation of ECTS points

Activities	Activity hours*
Lecture	30
Preparation for classes	40
Reading the indicated literature	20
Preparation for the assessment	10
Preparation for the exam	20
Student workload	Hours 120

Number of ECTS points	ECTS 4
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* academic hour = 45 minutes

Efekty uczenia się dla kierunku

Kod	Treść
ELS_K1_K02	The graduate is ready to fulfil social commitments and to contribute to the social environment through involvement in various forms of activity involving legal initiatives of European scope
ELS_K1_U01	The graduate can interpret social phenomena (cultural, political, legal, economic) within legal science
ELS_K1_U02	The graduate can use the basic theoretical knowledge and independently procure data to analyse individual processes and social phenomena (cultural, political, legal and economic) within legal science
ELS_K1_U03	The graduate can analyse the causes and course of individual processes and social phenomena (cultural, political, legal and economic) within legal science
ELS_K1_U04	The graduate can predict basic social processes and social phenomena (cultural, political, legal, economic) using standard research methods and tools within legal science
ELS_K1_U05	The graduate can use basic EU normative systems and selected norms, rules and regulations (legal, professional, moral) to solve a specific task
ELS_K1_U06	The graduate can use the knowledge gained to resolve dilemmas at work arising during their professional career as well as throughout pursued lifelong learning
ELS_K1_U07	The graduate can identify and analyse selected solution of specific individual problems and propose relevant resolutions
ELS_K1_W01	The graduate knows and understands the foundations of the science of law and its relation to other sciences, including the processes of internalisation and regionalisation
ELS_K1_W02	The graduate knows and understands the basic assumptions of integration processes analysed on the example of the European Union, in the social, cultural and economic context
ELS_K1_W04	The graduate knows and understands a deepened understanding of the European Convention for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms against the background of international systems of human rights protection
ELS_K1_W07	The graduate knows and understands the main institutions of the European Union and the relationships among them, including their respective competences
ELS_K1_W09	The graduate knows and understands the mechanisms of legal cooperation between the European Union and external subjects including states and international organisations
ELS_K1_W11	The graduate knows and understands EU public law regulations, including criminal law, in selected sectors