

## POLS\*4060: Advanced Lecture in Law &amp; Politics

**Credit Weighting:** 0.5**Pre-/Co-Requisites:** 12.50 credits including 1 of POLS\*3020, POLS\*3130, POLS\*3140, POLS\*3350 - Must be completed prior to taking this course.**Restrictions:** POLS\*4050. CJPP and CJPP:C students are restricted to a maximum of 3.00 credits in SOC and POLS 4000-level CJPP restricted electives. This is a Priority Access Course.**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION****Name:** Hiwot Abebe Mekuanent**Email:** hmekuane@uoguelph.ca**Office Location:** Zoom**GENERAL DETAILS**

"To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity." Nelson Mandela

What do we mean by "Human rights"? This course explores the historical antecedents of today's international human rights law, focusing on the major historical events that prompted the international community to take human rights seriously and establish internationally binding norms. The course examines both the normative and procedural aspects of international human rights law by analyzing the foundational principles, its historical formation, and the key sources that define and govern its global applicability. It delves into the human rights system at both the international and regional levels. Additionally, we will engage with core areas of human rights, including the rights of women, children, and persons with disabilities (PWDs).

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the foundations and evolution of international human rights law.
- Identify key actors and sources shaping human rights law and enforcement.
- Analyze mechanisms for accountability.
- Understand in detail selected core international human rights instruments.

**METHOD OF ASSESSMENT**

- Essay- Group assignment
- Class participation
- Reflection paper- Individual assignment
- Final Exam

**REQUIRED READING**

- Pustorino, P. (2023). Introduction to international human rights law (1st ed. 2023). T.M.C. Asser Press.
- Pustorino, P. (2023). Introduction to international human rights law (1st ed. 2023). T.M.C. Asser Press. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-6265-563-8> (Chap 2)
- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): What Are Human Rights? <https://www.ohchr.org/en/what-are-human-rights>
- Donnelly, J. Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice (Ch. 1).
- Pustorino, P. (2023). Introduction to international human rights law (1st ed. 2023). T.M.C. Asser Press. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-6265-563-8> (Chap 3)
- Freeman, M., & Van Ert, G. (2004). International human rights law (3rd ed.). Irwin Law.(Chap 3)
- Freeman, M., & Van Ert, G. (2004). International human rights law (3rd ed.). Irwin Law.(Chap 6)
- International Service for Human Rights. (2010). Simple guide to the UN treaty bodies.
- Freeman, M., & Van Ert, G. (2004). International human rights law (3rd ed.). Irwin Law. (Chap 4)
- United Nations. (1948). Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- United Nations. (1966). International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- United Nations. (1966). International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- Freeman, M., & Van Ert, G. (2004). International human rights law (3rd ed.). Irwin Law (Chap 5 page 88-91)
- United Nations. (1979). Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- United Nations. (1999). Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.
- [https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtmsg\\_no=IV-8&chapter=4&clang=\\_en](https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtmsg_no=IV-8&chapter=4&clang=_en)
- Carroll, L. (Ed.), & Warick, R. (Assoc. Ed.). (n.d.). The IFHOH United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities Implementation Toolkit. International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH).
- United Nations. (2006). Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- United Nations. (2006). Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (Page 13-17)
- Freeman, M., & Van Ert, G. (2004). International human rights law (3rd ed.). Irwin Law (Chap 5 page 88-91)
- United Nations. (1989). Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- United Nations General Assembly. (2000). Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.
- United Nations General Assembly. (2000). Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.
- United Nations General Assembly. (2011). Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure.
- Freeman, M., & Van Ert, G. (2004). International human rights law (3rd ed.). Irwin Law (Chap 5 page 88-91)
- United Nations. (1965, December 21). International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2106 (XX).

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