



Università
per Stranieri
di Perugia

EXAM PROGRAM

Master Degree: **International Relations and Development Cooperation (RICS)**

Subject: **Gender issues and Human rights**

Year of study: **I/II**

Term: II

Professor: **Moushira Khattab**

SSD: **IUS/13**

CFU: **6**

Global workload: **150 hours**

Distribution of workload : **40 hours of lectures and 110 hours of study at home**

Language: **English**

Academic Year 2013 -2014

Topic & Issues:

This course is an introduction to Human Rights with special emphasis on gender issues. It is not a course in international law but rather international relations. The course aims at providing undergraduate students with a forum to become acquainted with the international context that lead to the emergence of the UN human Rights System. How the system function, its strength and weaknesses. It seeks to provide basic knowledge on, institutional structures, and content of basic human rights in a dynamic international setup.

Pedagogical method, material and objectives:

Pedagogical Method:

The course will be conducted as a lecture based on a semester long discussion engaging students in debates. The personal input of students will be encouraged by their native experiences. The ultimate objective is to make students interested in, and hopefully advocates of human rights.

Teaching Materials:

The course will be taught in English. It relies mostly on UN human rights instruments; all available in the 5 UN languages as well as the Italian language. Additional reading material will be assigned

COURSE CONTENTS

I)

Introduction to the UN human rights system- its focus on implementation- national laws versus international law in terms of obligation to implementation- the global movement of human rights- Examination of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights UDHR comparing its legal versus moral weight- Human rights under the UNHR are legal obligations on the part of States Parties.

II)

Examination of the mechanism of implementation of human rights at the domestic level versus the international level. State commitment to implementation of human rights and report its efforts to the international organisation-(United Nations).

The course will focus on a number of UN Human Rights Instruments being:

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ICCPR

The International Covenant on Economic, social and Cultural Rights ICESCR

The Convention of the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women CEDAW

The Convention on the Rights of the Child CRC

Focus is on the implementation of States' commitments through reporting mechanism to treaty bodies.

Gender mainstreaming in all such conventions or instruments.

All Conventions provide a comprehensive strategy for the protection of human rights including women and girls' rights.

Introduction to the translation of the UDHR into more legally binding documents.

The establishment of human rights treaty bodies UNHRTB.

Examination of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ICCPR. Focus on the rights it contains and how they focus on implementation.

III)

Examination of The International Covenant on Economic, social and Cultural Rights. In depth study to compare the language of UDHR- ICCPR and ICESCR in so far as the obligation of States to take all measures of implantation of the rights. Also tracking of women and children rights and how they were dealt with, leading to more specific conventions later on.

IV)

In depth Examination of The Convention of the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women CEDAW. A quick overview of CEDAW optional protocol on the complaint mechanism.

Comparison of its provisions with that of UDHR, ICCPR and ICESCR.

V)

In depth examination of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

A quick overview of CRC three optional protocols.

Comparison of its provisions with that of UDHR, ICCPR, ICESCR and CEDAW. Focus on the gender component of CRC and its gender sensitive language.

Reports submitted by States Parties as well as shadow reports presented by NGO's and UN organs such as UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR and ILO etc.

VI)

Examine the document issued by the committee on the rights of the child entitled General Comment no. 5 on the "General Measures of Implementation on CRC". Trace the general measures of implementation of all UN human rights conventions studied during the course. Compare the various provisions indicating GMI. Study the difference between various conventions in this respect.

VII)

Study Security Council resolution on Women makers of peace 1325. Study its significance for women's rights; its follow up resolutions as well as the plan of action seeking the implementation of the resolution. Study Security Council resolution 1612 on the protection of children involved in armed conflict and the significance for children.

VIII)

Examine the new Organ established by the UN General Assembly in July 2010 entitled UN Women. Study the mandate of the new entity and its areas of focus.

Examine the entities that were grouped together under the UN Women.

Examine how the establishment of the UN Women will enhance women's rights.

Examine the work of the Commission on the Status of Women established by the UN General Assembly and its contribution to the advancement of women's rights.

IX)

Examination of the reporting process to UN Treaty Bodies.

Examination of some reports presented to CEDAW by States Parties.

Reports by other stake holders such as NGO's and UN organs such as UN women; UNICEF and UNHCR.

Examination of concluding recommendations by CEDAW and CRC.

X)

Benefits and drawbacks of the UN Treaty Bodies system.

Fragmentation- duplication- redundancy.

The establishment of the Human Rights Council.

Examination of the Universal Periodic Review by the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Examine the development that lead to UPR and the HRC resolution on the importance of Gender mainstreaming in UPR.

Study the role of the civil society in UPR and the reporting mechanism on HR implementation.

The role of students as part of the global movement for human rights. The course seeks to lobby the support of all.

XI)

Overview of the reporting process of the human rights council. Strength and weakness

Overall assessment of the global movement for human rights.

Tools to assess the human rights situation in any country.

XII)

Final examination (one hour and a half).

Critical review of the course. Students express their views about the course; strong points and the weaknesses that need to be addressed for future guidance in next years.

At each student is requested to write 3 short papers . The motive was to energise their interest in the issues of human rights through research and being exposed to different views.

Course regulations:

Students are expected to attend classes and to arrive on time.

CELL PHONES ARE FORBIDDEN! If you have a laptop, it should be used for note-taking or in other legitimate class related ways.

Visit website: <http://www.moushirakhattab.com>