



Form: Course Syllabus	Form Number	EXC-01-02-02A
	Issue Number and Date	18-Nov-24
	Number and Date of Revision or Modification	
	Deans Council Approval Decision Number	
	The Date of the Deans Council Approval Decision	
	Number of Pages	8

1.	Course Title	Theories of Human Rights
2.	Course Number	3002706
3.	Credit Hours (Theory, Practical)	3 Hours
	Contact Hours (Theory, Practical)	3 Hours
4.	Prerequisites/ Corequisites	---
5.	Program Title	Master of Human Rights and Human Development
6.	Program Code	01
7.	School/ Center	Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II School of International Studies
8.	Department	Department of International Development
9.	Course Level	Master level
10.	Year of Study and Semester (s)	
11.	Other Department(s) Involved in Teaching the Course	NA
12.	Main Learning Language	English Language
13.	Learning Types	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Face to face learning <input type="checkbox"/> Blended <input type="checkbox"/> Fully online
14.	Online Platforms(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Moodle <input type="checkbox"/> Microsoft Teams
15.	Issuing Date	18-Nov-24
16.	Revision Date	

17. Course Coordinator:

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Office hours, Mon, Tue 3:30 PM-5:00 PM

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Office: Faculty Building, 3rd floor, room 5

18. Other Instructors:



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Office: Faculty Building, 3rd floor, room 5

19. Course Description:

This is a comparative course in theories of human rights, drawing on political theory as philosophy; the course will introduce students to philosophical questions concerning the foundations of human rights. What are human rights based on? What makes something a human right? Are human rights universally and permanently valid or is the notion of human rights merely a construct of modern Western culture? The course will familiarize students with alternative theoretical answers to these and other related questions.

20. Program Intended Learning Outcomes: (To be used in designing the matrix linking the intended learning outcomes of the course with the intended learning outcomes of the program)

- Analyzes, evaluates, and contributes to human rights development and humanitarian issues within both international and local institutions, including United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations.
- Formulates concepts and terminology related to economic issues in the fields of human development and international human rights law.
- Analyzes and evaluates qualitative information sources in the field of human rights and human development.
- Contributes to community awareness through various means about the importance of human rights and human development, actively participating in building the community.
- Applies research methodologies in preparing and publishing scientific studies, as well as in conducting studies related to human rights and human development.
- Utilizes knowledge, principles, and theories in the field of human rights and human development to interpret and analyze local, regional, or international political events.

21. Course Intended Learning Outcomes: (Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to achieve the following intended learning outcomes)

1. Explain key philosophical questions and debates regarding the foundations and nature of human rights.



2. Critically analyze different theoretical perspectives on what constitutes a human right and the basis for human rights claims.
3. Evaluate arguments for and against the universality and permanence of human rights, considering cultural and historical contexts.
4. Compare and contrast Western and non-Western approaches to human rights theories, identifying points of convergence and divergence.
5. Formulate reasoned arguments on the philosophical underpinnings of human rights, drawing on political theory and philosophy.
6. Apply theoretical insights to contemporary human rights issues, assessing their philosophical implications and relevance.
7. Engage thoughtfully in discussions and debates about human rights theories, articulating well-supported positions and responding to counterarguments.

Learning and Teaching Methods: Lectures and group discussions.

Assignments: A term paper is a requirement of this course. The topic of the paper should be relevant to one of the topics in the Assignment Schedule. The paper should be 10 – 15 pages in length.

Assessment: First exam 30%, essay, attendance and participation 30% and final exam 40%.

Course IOs	The learning levels to be achieved					
	Remembering	Understanding	Applying	Analysing	evaluating	Creating
1		Understanding	Applying	Analyzing	Evaluating	
2	Remembering		Applying			
3		Understanding			Evaluating	Creating
4	Remembering		Applying	Analyzing	Evaluating	Creating
5	Remembering	Understanding		Analyzing		Creating
6		Understanding	Applying		Evaluating	
7	Remembering	Understanding	Applying	Analyzing	Evaluating	

22. The matrix linking the intended learning outcomes of the course with the intended learning outcomes of the program:

Program IOs / Course IOs	ILO (1)	ILO (2)	ILO (3)	ILO (4)	ILO (5)
1		✓			✓



2	✓			✓	
3		✓		✓	
4	✓		✓		
5		✓			✓
6	✓		✓		
7				✓	✓

23. Topic Outline and Schedule:

Topic	Week	Instructor	Achieved ILOs	Learning Type (Face to Face/ Blended/ Fully Online)	Evaluation Methods	Reference
The concept of human rights	Week 1	Dr. Abdelfattah	ILO (2) ILO (1)	Face to Face	Presentation and Working paper	Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice
The universal declaration model	Week 2	Dr. Abdelfattah	ILO (1) ILO (3)	Face to Face	Presentation and Working paper	Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice
Economic rights and group rights	Week 3	Dr. Abdelfattah	ILO (5) ILO (2)	Face to Face	Presentation and Working paper	Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice
Equal concern and respect	Week 4	Dr. Abdelfattah	ILO (1)	Face to Face	Presentation, Working paper and exams	The Idea of Human Rights
A Brief History of Human Rights	Week 5	Dr. Abdelfattah	ILO (3)	Face to Face	Presentation and Working paper	The Idea of Human Rights
The Relative Universality of Human Rights	Week 6	Dr. Abdelfattah	ILO (2) ILO (4)	Face to Face	Presentation and Working paper	The Idea of Human Rights
Universality in a World of Particularities & Dignity:	Week 7	Dr. Abdelfattah	ILO (5) ILO (4)	Face to Face	Presentation and Working paper	The Idea of Human Rights



Particularistic						
Universalistic Conceptions in the West	Week 8	Dr. Abdelfattah	ILO (3) ILO (1)	Face to Face	Presentation and Working paper	Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice
Humanity, Dignity, and Politics in Confucian China	Week 9	Dr. Abdelfattah	ILO (2)	Face to Face	Presentation and Working paper	Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice
Humans and Society in Hindu South Asia	Week 10	Dr. Abdelfattah	ILO (1)	Face to Face	Presentation and Working paper	Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice
International Human Rights Regimes & Human Rights and Foreign Policy	Week 11	Dr. Abdelfattah	ILO (1) ILO (3) ILO (5)	Face to Face	Presentation and Working paper	Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice
Human Rights, Democracy, and Development & The West and Economic and Social Rights	Week 12	Dr. Abdelfattah	ILO (3)	Face to Face	Presentation and Working paper	The Idea of Human Rights
Humanitarian Intervention against Genocide & Nondiscrimination for All: The Case of Sexual Minorities	Week 13	Dr. Abdelfattah	ILO (2) ILO (4)	Face to Face	Presentation and Working paper	The Idea of Human Rights
Paper Presentation	Week 14	Dr. Abdelfattah	ILO (5) ILO (4)	Face to Face	Presentation	



24. Evaluation Methods:

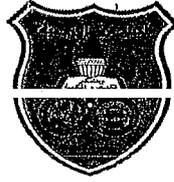
Opportunities to demonstrate achievement of the ILOs are provided through the following assessment methods and requirements:

Evaluation Activity	Mark	Topic(s)	ILO/s Linked to the Evaluation activity	Period (Week)	Platform
First Exam	30	All Topics	ILO (3) ILO (5) ILO (2)	5	At the faculty building
Essay, Attendance and Participation	30	the paper should be relevant to one of the topics in the Assignment Schedule	ILO (2) ILO (4)	10	At the faculty building
Final Exam	40	All Topics	ILO (5) ILO (4) ILO (2) ILO (1)	15	At the faculty building

25. Course Requirements:

(e.g.: students should have a computer, internet connection, webcam, account on a specific software/platform...etc.):

- Data show
- laptop



26. Course Policies:

- A- Attendance policies:
- B- Absences from exams and submitting assignments on time:
- C- Health and safety procedures:
- D- Honesty policy regarding cheating, plagiarism, misbehavior:
- E- Grading policy:
- F- Available university services that support achievement in the course

27. References:

A- Required book(s), assigned reading and audio-visuals:

Jack Donnelly, *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2003.

“Universal Declaration of Human Rights” (1948) United Nations.
<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml>

Charles R. Beitz, *The Idea of Human Rights*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009. Chapter 3 (“Naturalistic Theories”)
ane Lambelet, “The Contradiction between Soviet and American Human Rights Doctrine”
Boston University International Law Journal 7 (1989)

Andrew Bradely, “Positive Rights, Negative Rights and Health Care” *Journal of Medical Ethics* 36 (2010)

Jean-Jacque Rousseau, *The Social Contract*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002. Only read “Book I” (pg. 155-169) and “Book II” (pg. 170-192)

Karl Marx and Frederich Engels, “Manifesto of the Communist Party” (1848)
<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/> “Preamble”, Chapter I (“Bourgeois and Proletarians”) and Chapter II (“Proletarians and Communists”)

Eric Allen Engle, “Human Rights According to Marxism” *Guild Practitioner* 65 (2008)

Abdullahi Al-Na,im, “Human Rights and the Challenge of Relevance: The Case of Collective Rights” in *The Role of the Nation-State in the Twenty-First Century*, edited by M. Castermans-Holleman et al (Utrecht, Netherlands: Kluwer Law International, 1998)

Yvonne Donders, “Do Cultural Diversity and Human Rights make a Good Match? *International Social Science Journal* 61 (2010)



28. Additional information:

NA

Name of the Instructor or the Course Coordinator:	Signature:	Date:
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Name of the Head of Quality Assurance Committee/ Department	Signature:	Date:
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Name of the Head of Department	Signature:	Date:
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Name of the Head of Quality Assurance Committee/ School or Center	Signature:	Date:
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Name of the Dean or the Director	Signature:	Date:
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