

Module code	INR418	Level	4
Module title	International Law and Social Justice	Credit value	20
Core	Core	ECTS Credits	10
		Notional learning hours	200
Courses on which the module is taught	BA (Hons) International Relations	Teaching Period	Spring

1. Module description

In this module you will explore international law and social justice. You will learn about the origins of international law, the history and practice of the United Nations and the birth of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A range of real-world examples will be used to introduce you to the debates surrounding international law and social justice.

2. Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module you will be able to:

Decision-making (MLO 04)

investigate and contrast different ideas, including your own, to inform decision making about international law.

Interdisciplinary Perspectives (MLO 09)

identify and contrast perspectives from different disciplines in explaining international law and social justice situations.

Human & Environmental Impact (MLO 10)

explore the impact of human activity on people and on the environment.

3. Learning and teaching methods

You will be introduced to the module using various teaching techniques such as seminars, workshops, and case studies. The sessions will be interactive with students engaging in group activities such as presentations, debates etc. For your independent learning, you will have access to materials on blackboard which will aid your preparation for in-class sessions. You will also be expected to engage in research and refer to suggested reading materials for guidance.

Learning hours	
Directed learning	48 hours
Workshops/classes	48
Guided/Self-guided learning	152 hours
Total	200

Reasonable adjustments will depend on a Student Support Agreement and will acknowledge accrediting body requirements. In urgent or serious situations, reasonable adjustments might be required before the Student Wellbeing & Disability Team has been able to complete a full assessment. This will usually be where a student has a severe or urgent condition and either communicates this condition to a member of staff or their behaviour is suggestive of an adjustment need. Staff may put temporary reasonable adjustments in place to support the student. These adjustments must then be promptly communicated to the Student Wellbeing & Disability Team by the staff member who made the temporary adjustments. The Student Wellbeing & Disability team will capture and confirm appropriate reasonable adjustments (which may include changing the temporary adjustments, adding in other adjustments and outlining the period of time for which they apply) in a Student Support Agreement ('SSA').

4. Assessment, formative feedback and relative weightings

Assessment 1: Portfolio

Weight (%): 100%

You are part of a United Nations Agency. Taking the role of lead investigator, you will generate a portfolio centered on an identified social justice issue and related policy proposals. The portfolio has three interconnected parts:

1. Presentation (10 mins) You will present on a particular social justice concern to class, outlining its history, implications for people and/or the environment, situating the discussion in a legal framework. Your fellow students take the role of UN colleagues, who will give you feedback on the issue, and ideas on input for policy recommendations.
2. Policy recommendations (1000 words) Based on your research and the decisions made following input from your colleagues, you will draft 3 policy recommendations to address the particular issue you presented on.
3. Reflection (500 words) You will write a reflection on how social justice issues come onto the political agenda, and how this understanding will be useful to you in your second year.

Each summative assessment will be preceded by an opportunity for formative assessment accompanied by formative feedback.

Mapping of assessment tasks for the module

Assessment tasks	MLO4	MLO9	MLO10
Portfolio	X	X	X

5. Indicative resources

[Abass, A. \(2014\) Complete International Law: Text, Cases, and Materials, Oxford.](#)

[Goodhart, M. \(2023\) Human Rights Theory and Practice, Oxford.](#)

[Hurd, I. \(2024\) International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice, Cambridge.](#)

[Mantouvavou V., and Wolff, J. \(2024\) Structural Injustice, UCL Press.](#)

[Moeckli, D. et al \(2022\) International Human Rights Law, Oxford.](#)

[Shaw, M.N. \(2004\) International Law, Cambridge. \(online\)](#)

[Smith, R.K.M. \(2021\) International Human Rights Law, Oxford.](#)