

The background of the slide features five stylized, raised fists in different colors: yellow, orange, red, blue, and green. The fists are arranged in a slightly overlapping, horizontal line from left to right. The red fist is the largest and is positioned in the center, slightly higher than the others. The other fists are smaller and positioned below it. The background is solid black.

Human Rights (L2124A)

Final Year Advanced Option – 30 credits

human rights – course overview

- This module introduces you to key, interdisciplinary approaches, to human rights, including their **philosophical and historical evolution**, and their **contemporary forms and uses**.
- The course examines the **cultural encounters** and **human experiences** that emerge out of contemporary human rights regimes, taking case studies from a range of different settings to focus on **how culture and politics shapes these global practices**, and how **different groups understand, respond to, and challenge** such interventions.
- The module's focus is on the **multi-faceted and contingent ways in which human rights are socially enacted** (defined, claimed, interpreted, challenged, implemented and monitored), as well as the **possibilities and limitations** of human rights to realise their utopian potential.

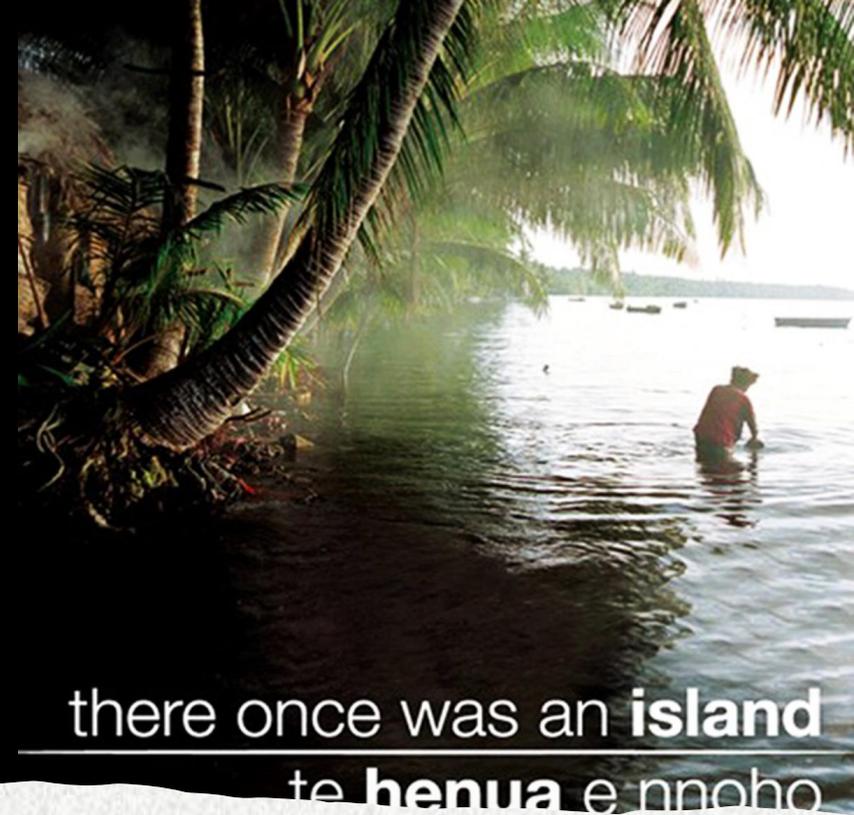


example weekly topics

- What are Human Rights?
- Claiming and contesting rights
- Human rights and the environment
- Refugees, migration, media, policy and rhetoric
- Citizen care, forensics and state failure
- Labour and rights
- Gender and sexualities rights
- Disability rights
- Indigenous rights
- Atrocity crimes and genocide
- More than human rights
- Resistance and alternative futures

NOTE: These may be subject to change, depending on contemporary situations





teaching modes

- 1-hour weekly lecture
- 2-hour weekly seminar

Learning is through a mixture of **interactive lectures** and **seminars**, drawing on **film, photography, and art**, as well as **academic literature** to think about the ways human rights are understood, enacted, and resisted globally. You will have the opportunity to critically engage with **contemporary issues of your interest** in both teaching and assessment, receiving feedback throughout.

learning outcomes

1. Systematically understand and critically evaluate key scholarly approaches to the philosophical and historical evolution, and contemporary forms, of human rights;
2. Extend and apply theoretical understanding to specific contexts in the analysis of human rights practice;
3. Independently research, synthesise and make arguments on specific themes and materials related to the module and your own interest;
4. Communicate your arguments to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

assessment

Coursework: (100%)

- Portfolio - 2500 words, Week 6
- Essay – 2500 words, Week 11

These can be on any subject related to human rights (as agreed with the convenor) and are not restricted to the subjects that we consider in the lecture and seminar.

See the next slide for a list of past subjects



examples of previous assessment topics

- The human rights project as a form of neo-colonialism/the globalisation of human rights
- Government rhetoric on refugees as a form of legalised discrimination
- Do the dead have human rights?
- The weaponization of women's rights in the global war on terror
- Is toxic pollution a human rights issue?
- Undefined terms? Are alternative framings of sexual orientation more effective than human rights at protecting sexual minorities?
- Abortion law in Northern Ireland: exploring the relationship between stigma and reproductive rights
- Is the prevalent narrative of child soldiers as coerced victims adequate for contemporary conflicts?
- The right to education in conflict zones: Palestine
- Enforced disappearance & extraordinary rendition: booksellers' disappearance in Thailand & Hong Kong
- Are disabled people fairly represented in International Human Rights Law?
- How does protest in China use the framework of human rights to resist authority?
- The human rights of indigenous people in a settler colonial state: Aotearoa New Zealand
- What happens when states fail? Citizen forensics and care on the migrant trail at the US-Mexico border

For any questions or further information,
please email: intdevoffice@sussex.ac.uk

