

Credit distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/Practice		
Introduction to Human Rights GE-13	4	3	1	-	NA	NA

Course Objectives

- To introduce students to the fundamental principles and history of human rights.
- To develop an understanding of key international and national human rights frameworks.
- To explore the status and protection of human rights in India.
- To critically engage with contemporary human rights challenges and debates.

Course Outcomes

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

- Define and explain the fundamental concepts, nature, and historical development of human rights.
- Identify and analyze key international instruments and bodies related to human rights.
- Evaluate the Indian constitutional and institutional mechanisms for the protection of human rights.
- Critically examine contemporary human rights issues affecting vulnerable populations and global society.
- Develop an informed and empathetic perspective on human rights concerns across various disciplines and professions.

Syllabus of GE-13

UNIT 1: Introduction to Human Rights

- a) Definition and Nature of Human Rights
- b) Historical Development: Magna Carta, French Revolution, American Bill of Rights

- c) Generations of Human Rights: Civil & Political, Economic, Social & Cultural, Solidarity Rights

Unit 2: International Human Rights Framework

- a) Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), 1948 – Historical Significance & Articles
- b) Major UN Conventions: ICCPR (1966), ICESCR (1966), CEDAW, CRC, CAT, CERD
- c) UN Human Rights Bodies: Human Rights Council, OHCHR

Unit 3: Human Rights in the Indian Context

- a. Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy
- b) Constitutional Remedies: Role of Judiciary and Public Interest Litigation
- c) Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 – NHRC and SHRCs: Structure, Functions, Powers
- d) Role of Civil Society and Media in Human Rights Promotion

Unit 4: Contemporary Issues World and India

- a) Rights of Vulnerable Groups: Women, Children, Dalits, Tribals, LGBTQ+, Persons with Disabilities, Refugees, Manual Scavengers, Prisoners

Suggested Readings:

Unit 1.1

Anyabolu, M.N. "The Nature of Human Rights." *Journal of International Human Rights and Contemporary Legal Issues*, Vol. 1, No. 1 (2019), pp. 53–60.

Skelton, Renee & Hugman, Richard. "Before and Beyond the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In: *Human Rights and Social Justice: Social Action and Service for the Helping and Health Professions*," Sage Publications

Unit 1.2

Conley, Patrick T. "Teaching Magna Carta in American History: Land, Law, and Legacy." *OAH Magazine of History*, Vol. 25, No. 3 (2011), pp. 17–20.

Hunt, Lynn. "The French Revolution and Human Rights: A Brief Documentary History." Bedford/St. Martin's, 1996.

Howard-Hassmann, Rhoda E. "By What Right Do We Invoke Human Rights?"

Ethics & International Affairs, Vol. 9 (1995), pp. 1–11.

Maier, Pauline. "The Birth of the Bill of Rights, 1776–1791."

The William and Mary Quarterly, Vol. 44, No. 3 (1987), pp. 463–464.

Unit 1.3

Clapham, Andrew. "Human Rights as Peacemaker: An Integrative Theory of International Law." Human Rights Quarterly, Vol. 38, No. 1 (2016), pp. 1–36.

Cornescu, Adrian Vasile. "The Generations of Human Rights."

In Dny práva – 2009 – Days of Law: The Conference Proceedings, Masaryk University, 2009.

Unit 2.1

Skelton, Renee & Hugman, Richard. "Before and Beyond the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In: Human Rights and Social Justice: Social Action and Service for the Helping and Health Professions". Sage Publications.

United Nations. Universal Declaration of Human Rights. United Nations, 1948

Scholar Publishing. The History of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Advances in Social Sciences Research Journal, Vol. 7, No. 10 (2020), pp. 1–10.

Unit 2.2

Healy, Lynne M. "An Introduction to Treaties for International Social Workers." International Social Work, Vol. 55, No. 2 (2012), pp. 248–264.

Sage Publications.

Neumayer, Eric. "Do International Human Rights Treaties Improve Respect for Human Rights?" Journal of Conflict Resolution, Vol. 49, No. 6 (2005), pp. 925–953.

Unit 2.3

Spohr, Maximilian. "United Nations Human Rights Council: Between Institution-Building Phase and Review of Status."

Max Planck Yearbook of United Nations Law, Vol. 14, 2010, pp. 169–218.

Freedman, Rosa. "The United Nations Human Rights Council: More of the Same?" Wisconsin International Law Journal, Vol. 31, No. 2, 2013, pp. 208–234.

Unit 3.1

Duhan, Roshni. "Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles: An Analytical Approach Towards Social Justice." Journal of Advance Research in Social Science and Humanities, vol. 2, no. 5, 2016.

Ratn, Archisa, and Ashna Vashist. "Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles: Inter-Relationship and Recent Trends." *Indian Journal of Law and Legal Research*, 20 Jan. 2024.

Ojha, Aditya. "Relationship Between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy." *Legal Service India*.

Law Times Journal. "Relationship between Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles and Fundamental Duties." *Law Times Journal*.

Unit 3.2

Constitutional Rights and Social Justice in India: An Analysis." *Journal of Namibian Studies*, 2023.

Social Justice in India: Constitutional Vision and Reality." *Economic and Political Weekly (EPW)*, Vol. 45, Issue 27 (2010).

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). Annual Reports. NHRC, India.

Sage Publications. "Human Rights Institutions in India: An Overview." *SAGE Journals*.

Unit 3.3

Ghatak, Sandip Kumar. "Social Exclusion and Dalits in India: A Note on Violation of Human Rights." *Contemporary Voice of Dalit*, vol. 4, no. 2, 2011.

Patil, Smita M. "Law of One's Own: On Dalit Women's Arduous Struggles for Social Justice." *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. 56, 2021.

Unit 4.1

Ghatak, Sandip Kumar. "Social Exclusion and Dalits in India: A Note on Violation of Human Rights." *Contemporary Voice of Dalit*, vol. 4, no. 2, 2011.

Patil, Smita M. "Law of One's Own: On Dalit Women's Arduous Struggles for Social Justice." *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. 56, 2021.

"Justice for the Marginalized in a Constitutional Democracy." *CASTE: A Global Journal on Social Exclusion*, Vol. 3 No. 1 (2022).

"The Path to Equity: Constitutional Principles in Social Justice." *International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research (IJFMR)*, Vol. 6, Issue 2 (2024).

Journal of Indian Law and Society. "The State of Exception: Dalit Women and the Law [Part I]." *JILS Blog*, 13 Sept. 2023.

SAGE Publications. "Disability Rights in India: A Review." *SAGE Journals*.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.