

Human Rights

Credit value: 3 USA Credits (6 ECTS Credits) – equivalent to 12 NMMU credits (the programme is open to students with a GPA of 2.5 and above (for students from the United States))

Facilitator: Mrs Franky Herbst

Introduction

Human Rights play an important role in our modern globalised world and are recognised as integral to social change. They affect individuals and societies alike and raise a number of issues that are neither simple nor clear. The various debates regarding human rights will be contextualised within South Africa's history.

This programme introduces students to human rights related discourses in a social science context. The universal and cultural specific dimensions of human rights will be explored through exploration of human rights in relation to social and cultural diversity and their local and global contexts, with an emphasis on Africa.

Students will learn to apply various human rights perspectives to selected human rights issues.

Programme

The programme will expose students to the debates pertaining to human rights abuse nationally and internationally. Various charters, constitutions and bills of rights are analysed with reference to their applicability within South Africa and Africa. The universality of human rights are discussed.

Lectures are facilitated by Nelson Mandela University academics. The programme consists of theoretical and practical aspects that are interactive. Thorough lecture preparation and active participation will ensure an optimum learning experience.

Learning Outcome: On completion of this programme students will:

- An understanding that human rights practices and institutions are the result of historical processes of social transformation
- A critical insight into the theoretical grounding of human rights and the human rights discourse in the 20th century
- An critical understanding of how the theoretical underpinnings of human rights translate into practice
- The ability to identify and critically analyse key human right issues and debates and clarify fundamental human rights debates through critical thinking and reasoning.
- Enable students to contribute to the development of a human rights culture and make justifiable decisions in ambiguous situations

Assessments

There are two assessments: portfolio and presentation. The final mark for the module will be determined as follows:

- 60% of the final mark will come from the portfolio;

- 30% of the final mark will come from the presentation;
- 10% will be awarded for attendance of lectures and participation in discussions.
- **Grading explained**

Needs improvement	Below 50%	The assignment does not meet the requirements; does not include all components and/or does not go beyond a descriptive level. No interaction with the learning subject, little or no reflection
Satisfactory	50-64%	Some evidence of critical and analytical thinking, examples, illustrations and reflection.
Good	65-74%	Substantial evidence of critical and analytical thinking; engagement with the learning subject; examples and illustrations; in depth reflection.
Excellent	75% and above	Exceeds expectations in all criteria/outcomes

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- **Comparison of grades**

NMMU grades	US grades
80-100%	A+
75-79%	A
70-74%	B+
65-69%	B
60-64%	B-
57-59%	C+
54-56%	C
51-53%	C-
50%	D
0-49%	Fail

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