Universidad Rey Juan Carlos

TEACHING GUIDE

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

GRADO EN RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES (INGLÉS)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

Publication date: 06-07-2026

Q2803011B UNIVERSIDAD REY JUAN CARLOS
Fecha firma: 13/11/2026 19:19 | Hash: d488dbe17a09b1fb8ee64b680220ac7c.

I.-Subject Identification	
Type	OBLIGATORIA
Teaching period	3 course, 2Q semester
Nº of credits	6
Language in wich the subject is taught	English

II.-Presentation

This course examines the international law system on the protection of human rights: its origin, sources, content, enforcement, and justifications. Hence, International Human Rights Law is designed to introduce students to issues, norms, procedures and advocacy strategies that are used to promote and protect human rights worldwide.
The program, covers the historical evolution of human rights law, its sources, and the universal system for the protection of human rights, and explores the scope of application of international human rights norms, as well as tensions between international human rights law and other rules of international law. It thus discusses very topical questions of extraterritorial application of human rights obligations, and of conflict with Security Council 'counter-terrorist' sanctions.
The program also covers the regional systems for the protection of human rights, their norms and their supervising mechanisms, specially the European Court of Human Rights
The aim is to acquire a critical knowledge of central aspects of international human rights law, and the ability to contextualize them.

III.-Learning outcomes

CG02. Students must be able to apply acquired knowledge to professional work and posses the skills that can be demonstrated by means of reasoning and defence, as well as problem-solving.
CG07. Students must be able to understand international relations from a perspective based on respect for human rights and the principles of democratic life and multicultural society.
CE01. Students must acquire general knowledge on the source, development and nature of legal systems and protocols governing actions and meetings that regulate interpersonal and institutional relations in national and international scenarios.
CE15. Students must be capable of analysing the legal and political consequences of the decisions made by the different international protagonists within the framework of the rules and institutions recognised by States.
CE18. Students must acquire their own skills to carry out professional activities within the framework of international relations and protection of rights.

- Key for degrees not adapted to RD 822/21: **CB** - basic competences, **CG** - generic competences, **CE** - specific competences, **CT** - transversal competences.
- Key for degrees adapted to RD 822/21: **CON** - knowledge, **COM** - competences, **HAB** - skills.

Q2803011B UNIVERSIDAD REY JUAN CARLOS
Fecha firma: 13/11/2026 19:19 | Hash: d488dbe17a09b1fb8ee64b680220ac7c.

IV.-Contents

IV.A.-Syllabus

This course examines the international law on the protection of human rights: its origin, sources, content, enforcement, and justifications. Hence, International Human Rights Law is designed to introduce students to issues, norms, procedures, and advocacy strategies that are used to promote and protect human rights worldwide.

PART I: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS: BASIC PRINCIPLES AND HISTORY

Lesson 1:

1. **Introduction to International Human Rights: Brief Historical Introduction**
2. **Basic Principles of International Human Rights Law**

PART II. UNIVERSAL PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Lesson 2: The UN System of Human Rights Protection (I) introduction

Lesson 3: The UN System of Human Rights Protection (II): The Treaty based monitoring system of human rights.

Lesson 4: The UN System of Human Rights Protection (III): UN Charter based procedures for violations of human rights.

1. The Human Rights Council
2. Procedures established under the Human Rights Council supervision

Lesson 5. International humanitarian law and International Law on Human Rights

Lesson 6 The International Labour Organization and Social Rights

PART III: Regional Systems of Human Rights Protection

Lesson 7: The European systems of Human Rights promotion and protection.

7.1 The Council of Europe

7.2 The European Union and the promotion and protection of human rights

Lesson 8: Protection of human rights in the Americas.

8.1 The Organization of American States.

8. 2 Human Right in the American integration processes.

Lesson 9: The African System and the promotion and protection of human rights in another regions.

IV.B.-Training activities

Type	Title
Resolución de ejercicios	Elaboration of practical assignments/case studies.
Oral presentations	Presentation of practical assignments/case studies.

Q2803011B UNIVERSIDAD REY JUAN CARLOS
Fecha firma: 13/11/2026 19:19 | Hash: d488dbe17a09b1fb8ee64b680220ac7c.

V.-Student workload	
Theoretical sessions	40
Resolution of exercises, problems, case studies, etc.	20
Practical sessions in experimental, technological and clinical laboratories, fieldwork, etc.	0
Tests and/or exams	0
Academic tutorials	9
Related activities: conferences, seminars, etc.	9
Preparation of theoretical sessions and self-study	30
Preparation of practical tasks, exercises, case studies, projects, etc.	30
Preparation for tests and/or exams	42
Total student workload	180

VI.-Methodology and academic programme

Type	Period	Content
Theoretical sessions	Week 7 to Week 14	PART III: Regional Systems of Human Rights Protection
Theoretical sessions	Week 4 to Week 10	PART II. UNIVERSAL PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
Practical sessions	Week 2 to Week 15	Practical assignments/case studies.

Q2803011B UNIVERSIDAD REY JUAN CARLOS
Fecha firma: 13/11/2026 19:19 | Hash: d488dbe17a09b1fb8ee64b680220ac7c.

Q2803011B UNIVERSIDAD REY JUAN CARLOS
Fecha firma: 13/11/2026 19:19 | Hash: d488dbe17a09b1fb8ee64b680220ac7c.

VII.-Assessment methods

The general assessment method is continuous as established in the *Regulation for the Assessment of Learning Outcomes* of Rey Juan Carlos University.
All the assessment systems established in the degree report must be employed, except for those that have a minimum weight of 0%, which can be used by professors in the academic years they consider relevant. Each assessment system may be applied through one or more assessment activities, consistent with the system. No assessment activity can exceed individually 60% of the overall grade for the subject.
The sum of non re-evaluable activities cannot exceed 40% of the overall grade for the subject and, in general, should not have an established minimum grade (except for practical activities in which, strictly speaking, the conditions of the ordinary call cannot be reproduced in the extraordinary call).
Those students who do not manage to pass the subject in the ordinary call, or do not attend this first call, may attend the extraordinary call only for failed re-evaluable assessment activities.
The distribution and characteristics of the assessment activities are described below.

VII.A.-Description and weight of the assessment activities

Medium Term Multiple Choice Exam On Campus: is worth 40% (8 questions available: 0,5 points each correct answer): March 2027
Final Term Multiple Choice Exam On Campus: 40%
Attendance and active participation in class: 20%
Grading scheme: Cumulative points (students need to earn 5 points on the midterm and final term exams to pass the PIL course and to get the additional 20% on attendance and participation in class)

VII.B. Assessment of students with academic exemption from class attendance

Having Academic Exemption from Class Attendance (DAAC) does not imply that students are automatically exempt from participating in the continuous assessment activities or in the training activities of compulsory attendance as established in the teaching guide. Once the exemption has been granted, students must contact the subject's teaching staff, who will propose the adaptations he/she may consider relevant, as long as they guarantee the acquisition and adequate assessment of the learning goals established. Students must maintain adequate communication with the teaching staff so that they may provide information on the dates for training and assessment activities, if these are not established in the programme and available for students at the time of achieving the exemption.
Subject with possibility of academic exemption: Yes.

VII.C. Review of assessment activities

In accordance with the Regulation for the Assessment of Learning Outcomes of Rey Juan Carlos University.

VII.D.-Students with a disability or special educational needs

In order to guarantee equal opportunities, non-discrimination, universal accessibility and academic success, students with disabilities or especial education needs may request curricular adaptations to follow their studies. These adaptations will be provided by the Unit of Attention to People with Disabilities of Rey Juan Carlos University, in accordance with the regulation which regulates the service for the Attention of People with Disabilities at the University. This Unit will issue a report for curricular adaptations, so that students with disabilities or special education needs must contact the service (at e-mail discapacidad.programa@urjc.es) in order to provide relevant information for different educational alternatives.

VII.E.-Academic behaviour, academic integrity and honesty

Rey Juan Carlos University is fully committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty, so studying at the URJC means assuming and subscribing to the values of integrity and academic honesty set out in the University's Ethical Code. To support this process, the University has Rey Juan Carlos University's Academic Conduct Regulation as well as different tools (anti-plagiarism, supervision...) that offer a collective guarantee for the full development of these essential values.

Q2803011B UNIVERSIDAD REY JUAN CARLOS
Fecha firma: 13/11/2026 19:19 | Hash: d488dbe17a09b1fb8ee64b680220ac7c.

VIII.-Teaching resources and materials
Basic bibliography
PASTOR RIDRUEJO JA y PASTOR PALOMAR A, Curso de Derecho internacional púbLlico y organizaciones internacionales, Tecnos, 2026. BANTEKAS, ILIAS; OETTE, LUTZ: *International Human Rights, Law and Practice*, Cambridge University Press, 2013 SHELTON, DINAH: *The Oxford Handbook of International Human Rights Law*, Oxford University Press, 2013 Mashood A. Baderin; Manisuli Ssenyonjo: *International Human Rights Law*, 2013; David Weissbrodt, Fionnuala Ni Aoláin, Joan Fitzpatrick, and Frank Newman: *International Human Rights: Law, Policy, and Process, 2006 (*http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/intlhr2006/) Webpage of the The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN Human Rights): https://www.ohchr.org/SP/Pages/Home.aspx International Committee of the Red Cross: https://www.icrc.org/en International Labour Organization: www.ilo.org Council of Europe: www.coe.int Organization of American States: www.oas.org
Consultation bibliography

IX.-Professors	
Name and surname	ANTONIO PASTOR PALOMAR
E-mail address	antonio.pastor@urjc.es
Department	Derecho Público II
Campus	Madrid - Vicálvaro
Category	Catedrático/a de Universidad
Academic degree	Doctor
Person responsible for the subject	Yes
Tutorial timetable	Para consultar las tutorias póngase en contacto con el/la profesor/a a través de correo electrónico
Number of quinquennia	6
Number of sexennia	4
No. of positive evaluations by Docentia	3

Q2803011B UNIVERSIDAD REY JUAN CARLOS
Fecha firma: 13/11/2026 19:19 | Hash: d488dbe17a09b1fb8ee64b680220ac7c.