

Module code: MOD011444	Version: 1 Date Amended: 17/Apr/2026
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1. Module Title
Contemporary Issues in International Human Rights and Criminal Justice

2a. Module Leader
Angus Nurse

2b. School
School of Economics, Finance and Law

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Business and Law

3a. Level
7

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

In this module, you will explore current and emerging challenges at the intersection of international human rights and criminal justice. You will examine how international, regional, and domestic systems respond to complex issues such as conflict, terrorism, migration, digital surveillance, environmental harm, and gender-based violence.

You will critically evaluate the effectiveness, legitimacy, and accountability of international courts, tribunals, and enforcement mechanisms, while considering the political, cultural, and ethical factors that shape justice and human rights in practice. Through case studies, debates, and research-led discussions, you will engage with real-world examples that illustrate the tensions between state sovereignty, global governance, and universal human rights principles.

By the end of the module, you will be able to analyse and apply advanced legal and theoretical frameworks to contemporary global justice problems, reflect critically on the operation of international justice mechanisms, and formulate informed, evidence-based perspectives on how human rights and criminal justice can adapt to future challenges.

6b. Outline Content

- The Evolving Landscape of International Human Rights and Criminal Justice: Overview of key developments, actors, and enforcement mechanisms.
- International and hybrid criminal justice mechanisms
- Conflict, security, and human rights
- Migration, displacement, and border control
- Gender, technology, and digital rights
- Environmental justice and corporate accountability
- Reform and future directions of international justice

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Critically evaluate and synthesise legal frameworks, principles, doctrines, institutions, and processes underpinning international human rights and criminal justice, and assess how they interact and evolve across complex and contested social, political, commercial, and ethical contexts.
2	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Critically analyse and interrogate a range of legal materials, theories, and perspectives in international human rights and criminal justice, identifying ambiguity, conflict, and potential reform, and developing original interpretations grounded in legal reasoning.
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Apply and evaluate complex legal principles to novel, interdisciplinary involving human rights and criminal justice, creating solutions that show creative and original insight, and integrate legal analysis with broader policy, ethical, and contextual dimensions.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Produce sophisticated and critically structured legal arguments tailored to academic or professional audiences in written form, communicating with precision, originality, and authority, and adhering to advanced academic and professional standards.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	0	N/A	N/A
Other teacher managed learning	25	1-4	Tutor Led Workshop (TLW): 1 x 1-hour TLW x 11 weeks (Teaching Weeks 1-11) AND Student Led Workshop (SLW): 1 x 1-hour SLW x 11 weeks (Teaching Weeks 1-11) PLUS Screencast: 1 x 20min x 10 weeks (Teaching Weeks 1-10)
Student managed learning	125	1-4	To include such things as watching screencasts, online discussion boards, VLE exercises and activities, private study, workshop preparation, assessment preparation and completion.
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	100 (%)	Fine Grade	40 (%)
Case study application of substantive law and critical evaluation of the effectiveness of the legal framework Wordcount: Maximum 3000					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*). In addition, students are required to: (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above (b) pass any pass/fail elements [* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]
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