



unitar

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

COURSE SYLLABUS

Human Rights, Environmental Protection and Climate Change

e-Learning | 2 – 15 August 2021



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Disclaimer and Acknowledgements

Please carefully read the Disclaimer and Acknowledgements documents located on this course's home page before beginning the course for more information about the terms and conditions of use of UNITAR's virtual learning environment and acknowledgement of those organizations for their authorization to use audio transcripts, webcasts and photographic imagery.

Course Presentation

The e-Learning course "Human Rights and Environmental Protection" covers the basic principles and concepts of human rights, the SDGs with emphasis on the goals and targets most relevant to environmental protection, and the relationship between human rights and the environment. In light of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP25) that took place in December 2019, the interdependence between both fields has never been more relevant.

The course will notably illustrate how the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can and is necessary to environmental protection, considering the recent scientific and legal developments around human rights and environment regimes. It will include as well a section covering the new developments following the COP25.

Course Outline

Module 1: Contextualisation of Human Rights and Environmental Protection

- Lesson 1: History of Environmental Protection
- Lesson 2: The Emergence of Contemporary Human Rights
- Lesson 3: Introduction to Environmental Human Rights

Module 2: Environmental Protection and the SDGs

- Lesson 1: The Right to a Healthy Environment
- Lesson 2: Human Rights and SDGs
- Lesson 3: Environmental Human Rights and Indigenous People
- Lesson 4: Rights of Nature
- Lesson 5: Climate Change and Human Rights

Contents and Learning Objectives

Module	Content	Learning objectives At the end of the module, you will be able to:
Module 1 Contextualisation Human Rights and Environmental Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of Environmental Protection • The Emergence of Contemporary Human Rights • Introduction to Environmental Human Rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and discuss some of the major concerns related to environmental protection through IEL • Deliberate about the potential role of human rights in efforts to protect the global environment • Identify examples of good practices on EHRs around the world • Explain the relevance of human rights for environmental protection • Identify the main regional tribunals and their functions
Module 2 Environmental Protection and the SDGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Right to a Healthy Environment • Human Rights and the SDGs • Environmental Human Rights and Indigenous People • Rights of Nature • Climate Change and Human Rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the challenges and opportunities for human rights and the SDGs in the areas of poverty and environment • Identify the value and benefits of adopting the right to a healthy environment in domestic constitutions, including potential drawbacks • Detail how the SDGs, EHRs and indigenous people's rights relate • Differentiate between anthropocentrism and ecocentrism • Provide an overview of climate litigation and the use of human rights in this effort

Methodology

The course will be delivered via the e-Learning platform Moodle. This pedagogical tool will help the student meet the course's learning objectives through a self-paced study routine supported by multimedia, optional and required readings, discussion forums, assessment quizzes, and a wealth of other information. Adapted specifically to full-time professionals, students will learn by: absorbing (reading), doing (activities), interacting (socializing), and reflecting (relating to personal experience).

Materials will be posted online on a weekly basis (see Complete Course Schedule under Study Planning section for more details). Your course is divided into two modules.

Module 1 and **Module 2** contain the same structural elements:

- Contents
- Objectives
- Lesson Material (text, video, interactive exercises and documents)
- Assessment
- Discussion Board
- Exercise

Grading Policy and Course Completion

Students are eligible for a course certificate upon successful course completion. Successful completion requires:

- **an 80% passing grade on EACH of the two weekly quizzes on Module 1 and, Module 2** (16 out of 20 questions correct); you may take each assessment up to 3 times (questions are randomized from a larger pool of questions and therefore will change upon assessment attempts);
- **an 70% passing grade on the final task:** at least 14pts (out of 20pts) to the final question posted in the Discussion Board forums; your answers will be evaluated according to both **quantity and quality** (e.g., content relevance and contribution to overall discussion).

Before moving to the next module, you should: **(a)** read all the core module texts, **(b)** take the module-based assessments, and **(c)** participate in the weekly Discussion Board forums. You are encouraged to consult the optional external links to enhance your knowledge of the given lesson's topic (e.g., links to websites and additional documents). **(d)** participate in the weekly quiz.

All assessments, once made available, will remain accessible until the end of the course and you can be taken anytime during the duration of the course, however assessments should be taken before moving to the next module.

UNITAR's e-Learning Committee will make the final decision regarding certificates in consultation with the moderator. UNITAR reserves the right to award certificates only to those considered as “eligible” participants. We urge you to take a clear note of the above requirements. If you need any clarification, please do not hesitate to contact UNITAR's Division for Multilateral Diplomacy.

Study Planning

The following study grid indicates which course activities are mandatory.

Activity	Mandatory
Interactive Course	Yes
External Links and Readings	No, recommended
Cybrary ¹	No
Module Assessments	Yes
Discussion Forums	No
Exercises	Yes
Course Evaluation	Yes

What is distinct about this learning experience is that it is an **online** learning experience. Online training, by its very nature, entails delivery of educational content over the internet. As you will proceed in this course, training materials will be made available to you through UNITAR's e-Learning portal. This course will also provide links to other web resources such as references and documents. Additionally, it will require you to use simple collaborative tools such as email exchanges among the group/participants who have registered for this course as well as participate in a discussion forum.

The UNITAR team is available to provide guidance and user information to help you participate and **contribute actively** to the discussion forums. You will also have access to a course moderator (or instructor) who will animate the discussion board as well as answer substantive and course related questions (either using the Discussion Board or through a traditional e-mail method). There will thus be no face-to-face interaction. All interaction will take place through the internet using UNITAR's e-Learning portal!

The **advantages** of online training are many. You are able to :

- schedule and pace your learning according to your specific needs
- make use of additional resources using the internet
- work from office or home as long as you have a computer with an internet connection
- connect with your fellow participants and instructors through the learning portal

The lack of face-to-face interaction will require more discipline and pro-active planning on your end in order to successfully meet the course's learning objectives. In this regard, it is thus different and distinct from a traditional face-to-face training course.

The following **Complete Course Schedule** indicates when materials will be posted online and taken offline. Note that following the fourth week, material will remain available online for the

¹ The Cybrary contains important course information; please see the next section on the course's Learning Content.

wrap-up session in which participants can take the Course Evaluation, as well as finish all assessments until the specified date.

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday Sunday
2 August 2021	First Day Module 1 online				Quiz 1 online (20 questions)	
9 August 2021	First Day Module 2 online				Quiz 2 online (20 questions) And Final Task Online (20pts)	

Although this online course is asynchronous – meaning that the interaction between you and the trainers or fellow participants will take place intermittently with a time delay – it will be important to establish a course study routine that best adapts to your work schedule, family commitments, Internet connection speed, etc. This will allow you to complete your assignments and tasks in time (on a week-by-week basis) and thus maintain a similar pace as other course participant. *Please note that the ILP e-Learning Team will send a reminder if your module-based assessments have not been completed.*

Learning Content²

The complete set of course materials **will NOT be available all at once on the UNITAR portal. Materials will be posted on a weekly basis.** Learning materials are organized as follows:

1. Interactive Course

The interactive course is the core mandatory learning activity. The various module lessons contain links to external documents and websites, videos, questions and suggested responses, and basic text. The lessons are relevant to a wide demographic of participants, both those with basic knowledge on the topic as well as those with more advanced knowledge who wish to focus on the more specialized points of the course.

2. Resources

The Resources section contains both optional and mandatory materials to enhance your understanding of a given lesson's subject matter. For example:

- a) **Cybrary (Cyber Library)** contains many additional resources, including:
- Printable PDF version of each module (with the Documents to Download cited in each module)
 - Optional Readings
 - Links & Resources

3. Key Icons



Quotes, technical jargon, etc.



Warning: mistakes to avoid, particular point of interest, etc.



Video clip or webcast

² See Disclaimer for more information regarding the terms and conditions of use of the course material.



Question / Interactive exercise



Document to download / Website link

Course Moderator

Dr. Evadné Grant



Evadné Grant, studied law at the University of Stellenbosch and the University of Cape Town in South Africa and subsequently completed an MPhil at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom. She taught at the University of Cape Town and the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg before moving to the United Kingdom. She joined the University of the West of England in 2008 and was Associate Head of Department with responsibility for the LLM Programme for more than 10 years. Her teaching interests lie in the areas of International Human Rights Law, International Law and Public Law. Her current research focuses on the relationship between human rights and the environment, but she also has a longstanding research interest in human dignity and the relationship between dignity and social and economic rights. She is one of the editors of the *Journal of Human Rights and the Environment* and series co-editor of the Critical Reflections on Human Rights and the Environment series, Edward Elgar Publishing.

Technical Support

For any technical issue or coordination matter, you may contact the International Law Programme Unit e-Learning Team (ILP e-Learning Team) by sending a message through the UNITAR Virtual Learning Environment.

You may also contact us by email at info.ilp@unitar.org. Email support is available 24/7, and we will respond as soon as possible.

ILP e-Learning Team

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