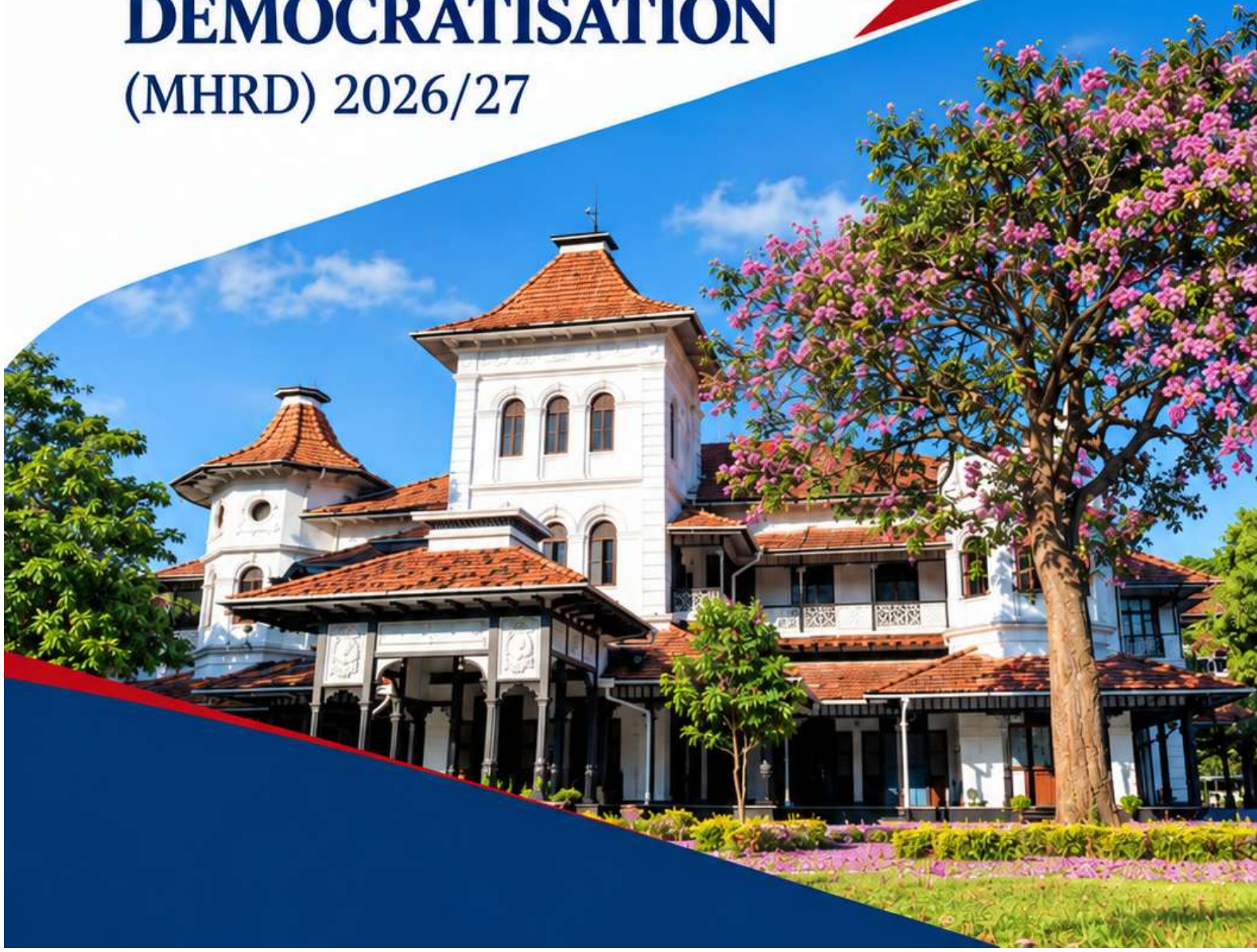




UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA
FACULTY OF LAW
CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF HUMAN RIGHTS

STUDENT HANDBOOK

**MASTER OF HUMAN
RIGHTS AND
DEMOCRATISATION**
(MHRD) 2026/27



MASTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATISATION (2026/2027)



STUDENT HANDBOOK

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

FACULTY OF LAW

CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF HUMAN RIGHTS

AUGUST 2026

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Our Vision

To be a center of excellence for creating a nation with a rights consciousness in which the dignity and rights of all people are respected.

Our Mission

To foster human rights education, research, capacity building, and knowledge services using a multidisciplinary approach.



CSHR PROFILE

Centre for the Study of Human Rights (CSHR) was established in 1991 in response to extensive human rights violations in Sri Lanka at the time period. It was set up as a non-profit organisation within the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, with the objective of making the public aware of their rights and remedies for the violation of rights. CSHR has been a pioneer of human rights education for more than 35 years with its' mandate of human rights education and research.

CSHR offers Certificate Courses, Advanced training programmes, Diploma programmes and Postgraduate programmes under CSHR Education programmes. In terms of Research, the CSHR carries out practical applicable research in relation to rights and conducts research for other organisations. CSHR also works towards strengthening the capacity of those in state and non-state sectors with the aim of protecting and promoting their rights as well as making them aware of the rights of their stakeholders. Over the years, the CSHR reached out to many groups such as secondary school students, rural and plantation communities, the university community, armed forces, police and prison officers, media personnel, prison inmates and the general public, among others.

CSHR also facilitates capacity-building programmes in disseminating human rights knowledge and knowledge services through its Resource Centre, rich in a wide range of human rights resources. The beneficiaries include students, academics, researchers and the general public.

CSHR also focuses on Institutional Development, facilitating the capacity building of the staff to improve their knowledge, skills and capacities towards disseminating programmes to CSHR's partners effectively and efficiently.

The CSHR's goal is to create a nation with a rights consciousness in which the dignity and rights of all people are respected.

Message by the Director



It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (MHRD) Programme of the Centre for the Study of Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo.

Human Rights and Democracy are not merely subjects of academic study; they are principles that continue to shape societies, institutions, and the lives of individuals. In an increasingly complex world, the ability to understand these principles critically and to respond thoughtfully to emerging challenges is more important than ever. The MHRD Programme has been developed with this broader purpose in

mind, bringing together perspectives from law, politics, sociology, history, and other disciplines to create a meaningful space for learning and intellectual engagement.

At the Centre for the Study of Human Rights, we believe that postgraduate education should extend beyond the classroom. It should encourage students to question, reflect, conduct independent research, engage with different perspectives, and connect academic knowledge with the realities of society. The Programme therefore seeks to provide an environment in which students can develop both their academic capabilities and their understanding of the responsibilities that accompany the study and practice of human rights.

The diversity of experiences and perspectives within the MHRD community is one of its greatest strengths. Learning alongside colleagues from different professional, academic, and social backgrounds provides an opportunity to broaden one's understanding and to appreciate the many dimensions of human rights and democratic governance.

We also recognize that postgraduate study is an important stage in shaping future careers and areas of professional engagement. Through academic study, research, practical exposure, and interaction with experienced academics and practitioners, the Programme seeks to equip students with the knowledge, analytical skills, and confidence required to contribute meaningfully to their chosen fields.

As you begin this journey, we encourage you to engage with the studies with curiosity, integrity, openness, and commitment. We hope you will make full use of the opportunities available to you, engage actively with your peers and resource persons, and take an interest in the wider academic and professional community surrounding the Programme.

On behalf of the Centre for the Study of Human Rights, I warmly welcome you to the MHRD Programme and wish you a fulfilling and successful experience at the University of Colombo.

Dr M A M Hakeem

Director - Centre for the Study of Human Rights

Head - Department of Public and International Law

Faculty of Law - University of Colombo

Message by the Acting Deputy Director



It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (MHRD) Programme at the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo.

Commencing postgraduate studies is an important step in both academic and professional life. The MHRD Programme offers you an opportunity to engage with human rights and democratisation not only as areas of academic inquiry, but also as fields closely connected to the realities of our societies. Throughout the Programme, you will encounter ideas, debates, experiences, and perspectives that may challenge your existing understanding and encourage you to look at familiar issues from new and different angles.

Your experience in the Programme will be shaped by your own commitment and involvement. Attending lectures, engaging in discussions, undertaking research, exchanging ideas with colleagues, and learning from academics and practitioners will form an important part of your postgraduate journey. I encourage you to approach each of these opportunities with curiosity and a willingness to learn.

Your research is also an essential component of postgraduate education. The Programme provides you with the opportunity to develop your ability to identify important issues, examine them critically, and present your findings through sound academic research. The skills developed through this process will be valuable not only for completing the Programme but also for your future academic and professional work.

The study of human rights also calls for respect for different experiences and viewpoints. We hope that your time in the MHRD Programme will allow you to build meaningful academic relationships, learn from the diversity within our student community, and develop a deeper appreciation of the responsibilities associated with working in the field of human rights and democracy.

As you begin this journey, I encourage you to remain committed to your studies, make use of the opportunities provided by the Programme, and take an active role in the academic life of the Centre for the Study of Human Rights.

We warmly welcome you to the MHRD Programme and wish you a rewarding and memorable postgraduate experience at the University of Colombo.

Dr Thilini Galappaththige

Acting Deputy Director - Centre for the Study of Human Rights

Senior Lecturer - Department of Public and International Law

Faculty of Law - University of Colombo

INTRODUCTION

1. **Master of Human Rights and Democratisation Programme (MHRD)**

The Master of Human Rights and Democratisation Programme is designed for highly motivated graduates, academics, and professionals in the fields of Human rights and Democratisation. The degree offers students a unique opportunity to engage in Human Rights and Democracy related issues at the national, regional and international levels and to interact with internationally acclaimed academics, practitioners and experts.

The programme is linked to the Asia Pacific Master of Arts in Human Rights and Democratisation Programme (APMA) for its Second Semester, currently coordinated by the Mahidol University in Thailand, and hence, students have the opportunity to interact with a group of international students under the APMA programme who will complete their second semester with the MHRD students at the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo.

Degree Structure

First Semester: August to January

Second semester: February to July – with international students of the Asia Pacific Master of Arts in Human Rights and Democratisation Programme, Mahidol University, Thailand.

2. **Asia Pacific Master of Arts in Human Rights and Democratisation Programme (APMA)**

(In collaboration with Mahidol University, Thailand)

The APMA is a unique Master's degree programme, whereby students undertake a foundational semester of study at The Mahidol University's Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies (IHRP), and are then given an opportunity to widen their exposure in the second semester at one of four partner universities:

- *Ateneo de Manila Law School (Philippines)*
- *University of Colombo (Sri Lanka)*
- *Gadjah Mada University (Indonesia)*
- *Kathmandu School of Law (Nepal)*

Graduates of the course will gain a multidisciplinary understanding of human rights and democratisation in the Asia Pacific region and will have the opportunity to explore and research the application of human rights and democratisation in the field with the facilitation of partner institutions.

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA**FACULTY OF LAW****Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (MHRD)**

By-Laws made by the Council of the University of Colombo under section 135 of the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978 and its subsequent amendments

1. (a.) These By-Laws may be cited as the Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (MHRD) No 01 of 2024.
(b.) These By-Laws shall be deemed to have come into operation with effect from 18th March 2024

PART I - GENERAL

2. Subject to these By-Laws a person may be awarded the degree of Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (hereinafter referred to as the “MHRD”) if she / he has:
 - (a) been duly registered for the MHRD program for the period prescribed by these By-Laws;
 - (b) pursued the program of study in the University to the satisfaction of the Vice-Chancellor as prescribed by these By- Laws, and other Regulations and Rules of the University;
 - (c) satisfied the examiners of the programme at all forms of assessment including continuous assessments (such as assignments, etc.), semester-end examinations and Dissertation component;
 - (d) paid the registration, tuition, supervision, examination, library and other fees and deposits as may be payable by the candidate to the University;
 - (e) ensured that the registration continues to be in force; and
 - (f) fulfilled all other requirements prescribed by these By-Laws and the Rules and Regulations of the University.

3. 1.) Applications for registration for the program leading to the MHRD shall be invited by notice in the newspapers and/or on the University notice board and/or on-line through the website/internet.

2.) A person who wishes to follow the program leading to the MHRD shall make an application through the conventional and/or on-line mode to the Registrar when the said program is advertised.

3.) The application shall be on the prescribed form providing the information as he/she shall be required to submit, including his/her qualifications for undertaking the program of study.
4. There shall be a Coordinator for the program and she/he shall be appointed by the Director of the Centre for the Study of Human Rights (CSHR).
5. The Director of the CSHR refers the applications received to the coordinator of the program. The coordinator, having examined the applications for necessary minimum qualifications, shall call the eligible candidates for a selection test and/or an interview to be conducted by a panel including the Director - CSHR, and the Academic Coordinator on which selections may be made. The list of candidates so selected shall be recommended to the Senate through the Academic Committee and Higher Degrees Committee and Faculty Board of the Faculty of Law (hereinafter the Faculty Board).
6. No candidate shall be eligible for admission to the program leading to the MHRD Degree, unless he/she has the following requirements as per the SLQF (2015):
 - (i) A Bachelor's degree from any recognised university or an equivalent qualification recognised by the University of Colombo;
 - (a) including 30 credits in the relevant subject area
 - or
 - (b) with prior learning/work experience equivalent to 30 credits in the relevant subject area
 - or
 - (ii) An educational/professional qualification in the relevant subject area equivalent to 1(a) or 1(b) with prior learning/work experience which is acceptable to the Faculty Board and the Senate of the University of Colombo
 - or
 - (iii) Completion of NVQ level 7, as determined by the Senate of the University of Colombo

and

A good knowledge of English language and satisfactory performance at a selection test and / or selection interview.

[such candidates shall hereinafter be referred to as 'Local Master's Degree Students']; or

- (iv) A person who has successfully completed the First Semester of the Master's Degree Programme at the Mahidol University as certified by the said University and who has been selected by the Mahidol University in conjunction with the University of Colombo to follow the Second Semester of the Master's Degree Programme in the University of Colombo

[such candidates shall hereinafter be referred to as 'International Master's Degree Students'].

7. If the number of persons who have applied and/or who are registered for the study program in any given academic year is not sufficient, in the opinion of the Faculty Board, to make the conducting of the study program financially viable, the Faculty Board reserves the right not to conduct the program, subject to the University refunding any fees except the application fees, that may have been received from candidates.
8.
 - 1.) On acceptance of the candidature by the Faculty Board and the Senate, a person shall forthwith register as a postgraduate candidate for MHRD Degree of the University upon payment of the prescribed registration, tuition, examination, library and other fees and/or deposits.
 - 2.) Unless otherwise decided by the Faculty Board, the minimum period of registration for the MHRD program shall be one (01) academic year, and the maximum period shall not exceed three (03) academic years counted from the date of commencement of the program. The initial registration (herein after referred to as the first period of registration) shall be valid for an academic year from the date of commencement of the program.
9.
 - 1.) The registration for MHRD program shall be deemed to have lapsed at the expiry of its period of validity. A candidate whose registration has so lapsed may renew her/his registration for a further period of another academic year subject to Clause 18(3), provided the MHRD program and the Faculty Board consider her/him eligible for such registration. However, no registration shall be renewed after the expiry of two (02) academic years from the end of the first period of registration. Any such candidate may seek registration for the MHRD program as a fresh candidate if she/he failed to obtain the MHRD Degree after the expiry of the maximum period of registration (i.e. three years), in competition with new applicants under the rules in force at the time of seeking such fresh registration.
 - 2.) Notwithstanding anything stated to the contrary, the University shall have the right to cancel at any time the registration of a candidate for the program after due process and for cause assigned.
 - 3.) A person who is registered as a candidate for the program shall devote her/his time to her/his studies at the University.

10. No student shall abstain from participating at classes (lectures, discussions, seminars etc.) or leave the country, or withdraw from examination or a classroom test whether conducted through the conventional mode and/or information communication technology driven on- line mode or a combination of multi-modes, without prior approval from the Faculty Board.

PART II – STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAM

11. 1.) The program leading to the MHRD Degree, which is unless otherwise decided by the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty Board for special reasons, shall be one (01) academic year with six (06) courses of 18 total credit values, and a Dissertation or Internship Report component of 15,000-18,000 words which carry 12 credits, offered in two semesters as prescribed in the Schedule.

2.) Local Master's Degree Students who are opting for the Internship will be required to complete an Internship Placement at a host institution working in the fields of human rights and/or democratisation, an Organisational Output and an Internship Research Report.

3.) The titles of the courses, syllabi, course codes, credit values and other details are those set out in the Schedule and the Senate shall have power, on the recommendation of the Faculty Board to amend, add to, delete from or vary the courses, their titles, syllabi, course codes, credit values and other details of the program. Such amendments shall come into effect after due notice.
12. The Program of Study and Examinations leading to the MHRD will be conducted in the conventional mode and/or through the information communication technology driven on-line mode or a combination of multi-modes and these By-Laws, and other relevant By-Laws, Rules and Regulations passed by the University of Colombo shall be so applied and interpreted in order to facilitate the effective conduct of the study program without compromising its integrity and quality.
13. The medium of instruction and examination shall be English.
14. The Senate, on the recommendation of the Faculty Board shall appoint a Board of Examiners to conduct examinations and assess the performance of candidates.

PART III
SCHEME OF EVALUATION AND
CRITERIA FOR PASS, MERIT, DISTINCTION OR INCOMPLETE

15. 1.) The evaluation of a candidate's performance at each of the courses shall take the form of continuous assessments and end-of-semester written examinations. Each course shall carry a maximum of 100 marks.
- 2.) In each of the taught courses 70 percent of the maximum mark shall be based on continuous assessments which assess the performance of the candidate at assignments, class-room tests, quizzes, reports, discussions, seminars, oral presentations etc.
- 3.) The balance 30 percent of marks shall be used for assessing the performance of the candidates at the end of semester open book written examination in an examination hall setting.
16. 1.) Candidates may be evaluated in respect of continuous assessments by the teachers concerned.
- 2.) The End of Semester written question papers of the course shall be prepared, as far as possible, by the relevant teachers and moderated by an expert of the subject.
- 3.) The examination of written answer scripts of the Eof Semester Examinations and the Dissertation/Internship Report shall be assessed by two independent examiners appointed by the Senate, on the recommendation of the Faculty Board.
17. The End of Semester Examination of each Semester shall be as held far as possible at the end of the relevant Semester, unless the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty Board, decides otherwise.
18. 1.) A candidate shall take the End-of-Semester Examination at the very first occasion when it is held for the Semester after the completion of lectures and other forms of instruction.
- 2.) Any candidate who fails to take the End-of-Semester Examination at the very first occasion when it is held for the Semester after the completion of lectures and other forms of instruction shall, unless excused on medical grounds or any other valid grounds approved by the Senate on recommendation of the Faculty Board, be deemed to have exhausted an attempt at taking the Examination when calculating the total number of attempts at which a candidate can take the Examination.
- 3.) No candidate shall be eligible to take the End-of-Semester Examination on more than two (02) occasions (attempts) and in calculating the number of occasions (attempts) a candidate is eligible to take the Examination, the deemed attempt as referred to in sub-Clause (2) above shall also be taken into account.

19. 1.) A person shall not be permitted to take the End of Semester Examination unless she/he has:
- (i) been duly registered as a MHRD candidate from the commencement of the academic year for which the examination is held;
 - (ii) satisfied a minimum of 80% of attendance required at lectures, seminars etc.;
 - (iii) has ensured that she/he has paid the necessary examination fees and made other payments to the University duly in respect of the entire Examination or those courses which she/he has been required to take, as the case may be;
 - (iv) registered with the Examinations Branch of the University for the Examination she/he intends to sit; and
 - (v) duly applied for the examination in accordance with the prescribed manner.
- 2.) A candidate shall be issued the relevant admission card by the University to enter the Examination Hall where the End-of-Semester Examination is held once she/he satisfies the requirements mentioned in the Sub-Clause (1) above.
- 3.) All rules relating to the examinations and assessments as contained in the Examination Procedure, Offences and Punishment Regulation No. 1 of 1986, and its subsequent amendments shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to the MHRD examinations as well.
- 4.) Without prejudice to the generality of the Regulation No. 1 of 1986 as amended, rules relating to the different forms of on-line assessment and Classroom Tests shall be formulated and implemented by the Coordinator and the relevant course teacher. Any matters relating to such rules shall be decided by the Faculty Board on the recommendation of the Coordinator and the Academic Committee relevant to the program. Such rules may vary from course to course as well as from year to year. Such rules shall be tabled at the Faculty Board as soon as possible.
- 5.) No change of these rules can take place without giving adequate notice to the candidates of the program.

20. 1.) Rules relating to assignments, presentations, classroom tests and other examinations shall be announced, from time to time, by the Program Coordinator in consultation with the teachers concerned and the Director - CSHR with the approval of the Academic Committee and Faculty Board and such rules shall not be changed or revoked unless otherwise decided by the Faculty Board.
- 2.) The Senate, on the recommendation of the Faculty Board, shall have the power to set down the rules governing the conduct of examinations and assessments as well as to deal with any situation for which rules have already not been made.
21. (1) Each of the Six (06) taught courses and the Dissertation/Internship Report component shall carry a maximum grade point value of 4.00.
- (2) A candidate's performance in each of the courses shall be graded according to the following scheme and the calculation of Grade Point Average (GPA) is carried out considering the Grade Point Value for each such courses and credits allocated accordingly.

Scheme of Assessment

Range of Marks	Grade	Grade Point Value	Result
90-100	A+	4.00	Distinction
80-89	A	4.00	
75-79	A-	3.70	
70-74	B+	3.30	Merit
65-69	B	3.00	
60-64	B-	2.70	Pass
55-59	C+	2.30	
50-54	C	2.00	
45-49	C-	1.70	Not Completed
40-44	D+	1.30	
30-39	D	1.00	
00-29	E	0.00	

(Source: UGC Circular No. 901/2008)

$$GPA = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n GPV_i C_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n C_i}$$

Where GPV_i and C_i are the Grade Point Value earned and credit values allocated respectively for the n^{th} courses. Any calculated GPA shall be rounded to the second decimal place.

22. A candidate shall be deemed to have been successful at the examination leading to the award of the MHRD Degree if he/she obtains 18 credits from all the taught courses and 12 credits from the Dissertation or Internship Report component.
23. A candidate who has been successful at the examination leading to the award of the MHRD Degree may be awarded a Distinction at the examination if she/he obtains a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.70 or more.
24. A candidate who has been successful at the examination leading to the award of the MHRD Degree may be awarded a Merit at the examination if she/he obtains a minimum GPA score between 3.00 and 3.69.
25. A candidate who has been successful at the examination leading to the award of the MHRD Degree may be awarded a Pass at the examination if she/he obtains GPA score between 2.00 and 2.99.
26.
 - 1.) A candidate shall be deemed to have an incomplete result in one or more taught courses or Dissertation or Internship Report component of the MHRD program if she/he obtains GPV (Grade Point Value) less than 2.00.
 - 2.) A candidate who has incomplete result having obtained a GPV of less than 2.00 in any taught course/s during a particular semester shall repeat the written examinations of the respective course/s at the next available occasion. Such candidates shall be given the option of carrying forward the continuous assessment marks earned for that respective course conducted during the particular semester.
 - 3.) A candidate who obtains a GPV of less than 2.00 in the Dissertation / Internship Report shall be considered unsuccessful and incomplete in the Dissertation or Internship Report component and shall be required to re-submit the Dissertation or Internship Report within a period of one year.
27. A candidate with incomplete results shall be eligible for one (1) further attempt provided she/he has a valid registration to satisfy the relevant conditions provided in the Section 18. She/he shall take the courses in which she/he has been unsuccessful on the very next occasion when the examination is held provided that she/he is eligible to take the examination.
28. The University shall announce through notification the names of candidates who have passed the MHRD examination and those who have incomplete results in the MHRD examination after completing the whole examination.

PART IV - MISCELLANEOUS

29. 1.) The fees for application, tuition, examination, and repeat examination, library facilities shall be determined from time to time by the Council of the University. The fees paid shall under no circumstances be refunded except under section 7 of these By-laws.
- 2.) There shall be additional fees charged from repeat candidates as determined by the Faculty Board and the Council depending on the expenses to be incurred by the University to service their repeat attempts in the instruction and examination process.
- 3.) The fee payable for a certificate or statement of results or transcripts shall be determined by the Council.
- 4.) The fee shall be charged for replacement of a lost student identity card or lost library card at rates determined by the Council.

PART V - TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

30. 1.) Notwithstanding anything contained in these By-Laws, the candidates who have already been registered under the provisions of the By-Laws of MHRD No. 05 of 2014, (hereinafter referred to as the 2014 By-Laws) shall be entitled to continue their program under and subject to those provisions.
- 2.) Any candidate who has already been registered for the MHRD program under the 2014 By-Laws shall enjoy a transition period of three (3) years within which they shall be governed by those provisions to complete their program according to the requirements of the MHRD program.
- 3.) The candidates who have been registered under the MHRD program under the 2014 By-Laws and who have not successfully completed the requirements for the award of the MHRD under those provisions (the MHRD program) may within a period of one (01) year from these By-Laws come into effect apply to the University that they be considered for transfer to the program under the present By-Laws.

Provided that, the Council reserves the right either to decline such request or to permit such request subject to such conditions as it may deem necessary to impose on the recommendations of the Faculty Board and the Senate.

- 4.) a.) The Council, on the recommendation of the Senate and the Faculty Board may consider granting an exemption from following a course/courses and taking the examination of a course/courses subject to such conditions as it may deem fit and proper. This decision shall be made by the Council on a case-by-case basis and its decision shall be final.

b.) The Council retains the discretion to deny any request made under sub-clause 30.4(a) above, if it thinks that granting the facility will be prejudicial to the interests of any stakeholders.

31. The Vice Chancellor of the University shall have the authority, in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty of Law, to take such actions or give such directions not inconsistent with the spirit and principles underlying the provisions of these By-Laws as appears to her/him to be necessary or expedient for the purpose of removing any difficulties that may arise in the interpretation of the provisions or for which there is no provision in these By-Laws or in the case of students who had followed or have been following the MHRD Program under the earlier arrangements and/or By-Laws.

PART VI- INTERPRETATIONS

32. In these By-Laws unless the context otherwise requires:

“Academic Committee” means the Academic Committee of the CSHR relevant to the above postgraduate degree programme.

“Application” means an application for registration or for entry to an examination.

“Council” means the Council of the University of Colombo constituted by the University Act. No. 16 of 1978. (As amended subsequently).

“CSHR” means the Centre for the Study of Human Rights.

“Faculty” means the Faculty of Law.

“Faculty Board” means the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Law.

“Registrar” means the Registrar, the Acting Registrar, Deputy Registrar or any other officer authorized to sign for and on behalf of the Registrar of the University of Colombo.

“Senate” means the Senate of the University of Colombo constituted by the University Act No. 16 of 1978 (as amended subsequently)

33. Any questions regarding the interpretation of the By-Laws shall be referred to the Council whose decision there on shall be final.

SCHEDULE

Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (MHRD)

SLQF Level 09

The program of study leading to the Master of Human Rights and Democratisation shall offer the subjects as given below in the academic year (Semester I & II).

Academic year	Code of Courses	Name of Course	Number of credits
Semester I	MHRD 9101	Human Rights Norms and Mechanisms (Part I) (HRNM I)	03
	MHRD 9102	Democracy Theory and Practice (DTP)	03
	MHRD 9103	Dynamics of Human Rights Violations (DHRV)	03
	MHRD 9104	Human Rights and Democratisation Research (HRDR)	03
Semester II	MHRD 9201	Human Rights Norms and Mechanisms (Part II) (HRNM II)	03
	MHRD 9202	Critical and Emerging Issues in the Asia Pacific (CEIAP)	03
	MHRD 9203	Dissertation / Internship Report	12
Total Credits			30

Graduate Profile

Subject Specific Outcomes
Knowledge More contextualised and practical understanding on human rights and democracy.
Skills Monitoring and preparing practical/advocacy related tools for human rights and democracy.
Attitudes Greater competence at working with human rights and democratisation defenders.
Mind-set and Paradigm
Face the challenges of the modern world.



DISSERTATION GUIDELINES

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Appendix I: Letter of Recommendation from Supervisor

Appendix II: Supervision Log (Available on LMS)



University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
Faculty of Law
Centre for the Study of Human Rights

1. INTRODUCTION

This document will guide you in the preparation and execution of your Human Rights and Democratisation master's dissertation. It contains information such as deadlines and submission procedures, as well as broader principles to undertake a major research project on issues in human rights and democratisation.

2. CONTACTS

Your primary contact for matters related to the Dissertation programme is the MHRD programme's Dissertation Coordinator. The Dissertation Coordinator will get your research proposal approved and identify a relevant academic supervisor for your dissertation.

The Dissertation Coordinator's contact details are as follows:

NAME: G I D I Udani
OFFICE: Centre for the Study of Human Rights,
Faculty of Law,
University of Colombo
No.94, Cumaratunga Munidasa Mawatha, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka

EMAIL: mhrd.academic@cshr.cmb.ac.lk

3. KEY DEADLINES/TIME FRAMEWORK (FOR MHRD STUDENTS)

Due Date	Task
January 2027	The written research proposal is submitted to the examiners of the Human Rights and Democratisation course. (As an Assignment)
February 2027	First meeting with the assigned supervisor. Students are advised to send/submit their dissertation proposal to the assigned supervisor at least one week prior to the first supervisory meeting.
February 2027	Students consult their supervisors and submit applications for ethics clearance to the academic coordinator of the MHRD (if required)
March to June 2027	Writing Period (04 Months)
30 th June 2027	Submission of the dissertation to the Examination Branch. (With the recommendation letter and supervision log signed by the supervisor) Soft copy of the Dissertation should be uploaded to the LMS by the student on the Submission Date.



University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
Faculty of Law
Centre for the Study of Human Rights

4. FIELDWORK AND ETHICAL CLEARANCE

Field visits, interviews, or using a quantitative data collection method for your MHRD dissertation research are not mandatory. Students are advised not to select these research methods unless they can manage their time. For students who undertake field research or quantitative data collection methods involving contact with humans are required to undergo an ethics review at the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo. Students are required to consult their assigned supervisor and/or the dissertation coordinator to determine whether they need ethics approval for their research.

Faculty of Law, University of Colombo requires at least two months to obtain Ethics Committee approval and confirm the relevant meeting minutes. Students are therefore required to prepare and submit the ethics review application and all other necessary documents within their own time, with the guidance and support of their assigned supervisor and the Dissertation Coordinator. No additional time will be granted for completing this process. While the research methodology module in the first semester provides instruction on research ethics, no time is allocated for completing the ethics application during your coursework, as not all students will need to undergo this process. As such, the additional workload should be a key consideration for students deciding whether to undertake fieldwork for their dissertation.

5. THE STAGES OF DISSERTATION

SEMESTER I

A. Drafting Dissertation Proposal

Here, you will work on your research proposals for the Human Rights and Democratisation Research course under the guidance of the resource persons of the course during the first semester of the programme.

SEMESTER II

B. Allocation of Supervisors

On the basis of the Draft Dissertation Proposal submitted by the student, the Dissertation Coordinator will recommend a supervisor and will be approved by the Higher Degrees Committee and the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo. It is crucial for the student and supervisor to be in contact as soon as possible.

C. Dissertation Proposal

The Draft Dissertation Proposal developed during the first semester will form the basis for the Dissertation developed during the second semester.

D. Proposal Changes

Your supervisor may instruct you to revise the research proposal or revise the title of the dissertation during the supervisory meetings. The supervisor and the student can discuss and decide on the revisions during the first two months of supervision and submit a formal request by the student, with the recommendation of the supervisor, to



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the dissertation coordinator (academic coordinator/MHRD). The revisions to the approved titles should be submitted to the Higher Degrees Committee and the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Law by the academic coordinator/MHRD.

However, title changes are not permitted two months (60 days) before the dissertation submission deadline under any circumstances. The students should include the titles approved by the Senate of the University of Colombo when they submit the dissertations. If the title is different from the approved title, the exam branch will not accept your dissertation. Please consult the academic coordinator/MHRD and confirm whether your revised title is approved by the university before submitting the dissertation.

E. Proposal Complies with Ethics Requirements

The Dissertation Proposal must be in compliance with ethics requirements. It must also remain compliant with the procedures approved by the University of Colombo. Students planning to undertake fieldwork will therefore be required to submit their application to the Ethics Committee during the second semester.

F. Research/Fieldwork

This is a research stage, and where the real work begins. You must work on this stage for at least three months. During this time, you should meet regularly with your supervisor and begin to write up.

G. Write-Up

The final write-up is also known as completion. The write-up does not mean that you've written nothing by this stage. Rather, it is where the student concentrates exclusively on writing. At this stage, the student should be redrafting material already written into the final dissertation. This is when you hide in your room to write the dissertation! The students are required to submit their chapters to their supervisors, receive comments, and revise them accordingly. **A full draft of the dissertation should be submitted to your supervisor at least three weeks before the submission date.** If the student has not submitted the full draft of the dissertation in accordance with this requirement, the supervisor may refuse to sign the supervisor's recommendation letter or sign it with a disclaimer.

H. Revisions

The supervisor may demand changes to the dissertation before final submission.

I. Submission

A soft copy of the dissertation should be submitted via LMS, and two printed and hard-bound physical copies must be submitted to the Examination Branch, University of Colombo, following the thesis submission procedure. Two appointed examiners will examine the final dissertation. It is mandatory for students to upload the soft copy of the dissertation on the MHRD LMS page on or before the submission deadline, in parallel with the submission of the hard copies. If the soft copy is not uploaded, that dissertation will not be sent for marking even though the hard copies are submitted. Soft copies should be identical to the hard copies/printed copies of the dissertation, since soft copies will be submitted for AI-generated text and plagiarism detection. Please note that late submissions of the dissertations will not be accepted by the examination branch.



6. THE PROPOSAL – The Human Rights and the Democratisation Research Course (MHRD 9104)

The research method unit will provide resources and instruction on developing a dissertation proposal. This section provides some general guidelines to help you begin to plan your research proposal.

What is a Dissertation Proposal?

The Dissertation Proposal is a document of the research you *intend* to undertake. It is intended to ensure that the research you propose is of a suitable standard for a master's degree. It must outline the proposed research; specify how you will undertake it; and demonstrate your understanding of the topic.

Elements of a Dissertation Proposal

The specific elements of a proposal may vary. Students should consult the resource persons of the Human Rights and Democratisation Research course for appropriate formats.

Introduction

This is an overview of the *topic and your research project*. The introduction will provide context for the issues and a general overview of the main points.

Statement of Research Problem

The 'problem' of the research problem is something that needs research to attempt to find an answer. A gap in the research may be discovered after an initial literature survey related to your selected topic. This section explains why research needs to be undertaken. The research must address this problem by finding an answer.

Be careful not to confuse a problem in the 'real world', for instance, violence or any other violation, with a research problem. A research problem is a theoretical or conceptual problem that your dissertation should provide an answer to. A problem in the real world is something that is going wrong and that your dissertation will analyse or address. A research problem does not mean something is going wrong; it means there is some issue that nobody knows the answer to, and you plan to find this answer.

Objectives of research

Any proposal must outline the expected product or output of the research. Objectives are generally stated in terms such as:

- To identify
- To compare
- To analyze
- To define ...
- To assess ...
- To critique
- To determine



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You should generally avoid broad terms like ‘to think about’ because these do not address your problem (you will be exploring and thinking regardless of the specific problem). Also, be careful with using terms like ‘to suggest’ or ‘to propose’ because these may be *recommendations* coming out of the research, and not research findings.

Research questions

The research question(s) are simply what your research will answer and is/are derived from the research problem. The purpose of such questions is to give direction to your research. Many scholars consider research questions to be at the foundation of their work. The conventions for formulating research questions will vary; notably, there are key differences between qualitative and quantitative research projects. Also, while some researchers formulate a central research question, others will formulate 3-4 questions to guide their research. In some cases, the researcher will pose a working hypothesis instead of a research question. The formulation of research questions will be examined in the research method unit.

Hypothesis (If relevant) and/or Expected Outcomes

In your proposal, it is not mandatory to include a hypothesis. You may be expected to give a brief assessment of what you expect to find. This enables you to anticipate what your research will show and to propose a theory for why the results will be as they are. It is not necessary for your final dissertation to agree with the outcomes.

Significance of research

In this section, detail what contributions the dissertation will make. Think about potential outcomes of the research topic and whether the dissertation will be practical. Contributions may occur in three areas: contributions to knowledge, to the research subjects, and to the community in general. While academic research primarily benefits the academic community, the student should consider how the dissertation might contribute to groups, communities, or organisations.

Literature Review

The literature review should demonstrate that you have read and researched the existing research and literature. It describes relevant texts, analyses important research, and criticises work related to your research.

In this section, you may wish to introduce your theoretical framework. This framework will underpin your argument. It should show how your explanation of the research is both related to and distinct from other people’s ideas and theories. Furthermore, it should demonstrate, at a basic level, how these theories operate.



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Research Methodology

Readers of the proposal want proof that you will find what you're looking for, that it will be done ethically, and that you are capable of it. Here, you describe the research process, your research tools, and the strategy for using these tools. The size of this section, obviously, depends on the type of methodology; if your research is simply doctrinal, then it may only be a few paragraphs, but if your research involves fieldwork, interviews and/or questionnaires, this section could be more involved.

Ethical Issues and Research Limitations

You need to announce if you may have any ethical research concerns. This may include concerns about researching vulnerable subjects or about any risks involved in the fieldwork. Even if there are no ethical issues, you need to declare this in the proposal.

Referencing

OSCOLA (4th edition) (for legal research) or APA (for democracy-based research) is accepted. This should be decided in consultation with the supervisor.

A Good Research Proposal

What makes for a good research proposal?

While there are many research proposals, there are basic ingredients that make a proposal successful.

1. Topic Suitability

The topic must be of a suitable size, that is, neither too big nor too small. The topic must have a thesis: it must contain an argument. You cannot simply describe an event. The topic is a contribution to knowledge. You will offer some new analysis of a research problem. The topic is a social contribution: stakeholders will benefit from research.

2. Appropriate Methodology

Here, the committee will determine if your research methods allow you to locate what you are looking for. Without accurate research methods, you may not be able to find your data or analyse your material.

3. Competence

This is determined from the literature review. You must demonstrate that you have done enough research to show that you will not get lost, and that you can find your way around the issues, concepts, and people.

4. **Project Coordination.** Your objectives, questions, literature review, and methods should focus on the same aspect of research. The method must answer your research questions, not other questions; and the literature review must provide information on your objectives, and so on. A good proposal is tight and focused.



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5. Clarity of expression. The expression and presentation should be professional, clear, and concise.

6. Enthusiasm. This may be hard to convey, but the best proposals show enthusiasm. Enthusiasm tells the committee that you will complete the project, and equally importantly, why you're undertaking it in the first place.

7. STUDENT-SUPERVISOR RELATIONSHIP

The most important part of the student's research project will be the relationship with his/her/their supervisor. Supervisors play many roles. They offer academic advice, provide project management guidance, offer moral support, and help with career choices and networking. Sometimes the supervisor is at a distance, and there is little contact for months; at other times, there is weekly contact. Students should discuss with their assigned supervisors the mode of meetings and document submissions prior to the meetings. The supervisor's knowledge of the field and managerial skills will determine the quality and the success of the dissertation. Students should submit the supervisory meeting records/logs (minimum four meetings), signed by both the student and the supervisor, to the course coordinator/MHRD at the CSHR on the dissertation submission date. This is a compulsory requirement to confirm that the students have met their supervisors during the period of supervision. Also, without the supervisor's recommendation letter, the students are unable to submit the dissertation.

Types of Supervisor and Student Relationships

Close supervision:	Supervision at a distance:
Regular meetings and regular submission of work. Structured timetable.	The student decides when to meet and what work to hand in.
The supervisor has input on most student decisions: they may decide on experimental or research models and determine the project outline and plan.	Students work independently from supervisor: supervisor allows the student to make all the decisions on how to structure and manage the research project.
Structured program: A timetable is made early in the supervision, and the student must stick to it.	Unstructured program: There is no overall plan, and the student decides what action to take as events arise.
Professional: The supervisor and student adhere to formal agreements regarding supervision.	Sociable: The meetings are informal, and the student and supervisor are friendly, perhaps meeting off campus.
Attention to detail: The supervisor closely monitors all aspects of the project and reviews all drafts.	Relaxed: supervisor leaves minor details to the students

Supervisor relationships are most often a mix of extremes. Neither style is better than the other; however, it is important that both sides agree on which style suits them best.



The Responsibilities of Student and Supervisor

In some ways, the dissertation is a shared project. However, the responsibilities are distinct, and the student must be aware of his/her/their obligations. Primary responsibility for oversight of a student's work rests with the supervisor. Final responsibility for the dissertation rests with the student. So, while the supervisor is expected to know the subject matter of the research, offer opinions and criticisms, direct the student, and to ensure there is continuing progress, the student must make sure they meet the required standard.

What should a student expect from the supervisor?

A good supervisor performs a wide range of activities, including determining the topic and approach, advising on problems, teaching, commenting on work, finding resources (contacts or documents), monitoring and supporting progress, and providing moral support. The main skills of the supervisor are:

Supervise research. Perhaps the most obvious, students should expect their supervisor to provide academic guidance and monitor their academic work. Supervisors need to look over the students' shoulders and observe their progress; step in when progress is going nowhere; be supportive when the work is difficult; keep out of the way when progress is good; and, finally, ensure that the research meets the necessary standard.

Manage the topic. The supervisors should help outline the topic. This includes help with topic formulation, time management, expected outcomes, work plans, research agenda, and recognition of the strengths and weaknesses in the student, argument, and research.

Provide adequate time for the student. The contact time needed by a Master's student will vary depending on the state of the project and the personalities of the supervisors and the student. Meetings may be weekly during some stages and monthly during others. However, early in supervision, both supervisors and the student should agree on a meeting schedule.

Provide constructive criticism of the project. The supervisors must be available to regularly read, comment, discuss, and criticise the students' work.

Moral support. This is a difficult skill, but supervisors should provide the student with the necessary enthusiasm, encouragement, and emotional support. Sometimes the master's is tough work; the student may not see the end and perhaps loses confidence. Like a coach, the supervisors must be able to inspire and motivate. Also, they must be able to communicate with the student on some personal or emotional issues related to the project.

Network support. The supervisors should include their students in academic life. This can include participation in Program seminars, attending conferences, or meeting academics working in similar areas. Participating in the academic community is central to academic life, and the supervisor should introduce the student to this group.



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Disseminating research. Academic careers are mainly judged on publications. The supervisors should encourage the students to publish and assist them in presenting work of a publishable standard.

What should supervisors expect of their students?

Openly discuss progress on the work. Supervisors can only determine how the project is going based on what the student reports. If the project is stalled, they need to know as soon as possible. It is a serious mistake for a student to mislead supervisors about their progress. The best means to monitor progress is to regularly submit work to the supervisor for comment.

Mutually agreed meeting times. The supervisor is a busy person; structured, organised meeting times are essential. The supervisors do not want the student to knock on her/his door every day. Neither do they want the student to disappear for months without contact. Regular meeting times should be organised as early as possible and reassessed each semester as needed.

Student responsibility for the dissertation. The student must take ultimate responsibility for managing the project and obtaining their degree. While supervisors have an investment in the project's completion, the student must be accountable for its success or failure. If the project is in trouble, it is the student's responsibility to address the issues and ask for help. The supervisors cannot be blamed for any major problems. While the supervisor is responsible for ensuring the final dissertation is of appropriate quality, the student must accept ultimate responsibility for the content, presentation, and defense of the dissertation (thesis defense is only for APMA students).

Students must balance conformity and independence. Sometimes the student should follow directions and advice, but at other times they should break some rules. After all, the point of the degree and dissertation is to contribute original ideas! Knowing when to follow the rules and when to disagree is a skill of a great master's student.

Regularly produce legible written work. The dissertation is written work, and is assessed as a written work. The only measure the supervisor has of progress is what the student has written. There is no point in submitting notes to the supervisor; however, it is not necessary to always give fully detailed, final versions for review. But the student must produce written material that is properly set out, neat, and coherent.

The student should ask others for advice. Supervisors should not be the only source of advice; they are only the *main* source. The student should get advice and commentary from peers and other academics. This will generate new ideas and reduce the supervisor's workload.



8. DISSERTATION REQUIREMENTS

Technicalities and Formatting

- Margin: right and left 1.25 to 1.50 inches, 1 inch at the top and bottom.
- Font Type: Times New Roman.
- Font Size: Body Text – 12 points
- Line Spacing: Double
- Chapter Headings - 14 points
- Sub-headings - 12 points and Bold
- Footnotes - 10 points
- Footnote Line Spacing: Single (Default).
- Paragraph Spacing: Double.
- Word limit: between 15,000 to 18,000 (including references/bibliography, excluding annexures)
- Format: Single-sided printed with spiral/hard binding (2 copies)

Referencing

OSCOLA (4th edition) (for legal research) or APA (for democracy-based research) is accepted. This should be decided in consultation with the supervisor.

9. STRUCTURE OF THE DISSERTATION

The student and the supervisor can discuss and decide on the structure of the dissertation during the first month of the supervision period. However, the introduction chapter and the Recommendations and Conclusions Chapters are compulsory. Students may include chapters on Literature Review, Research Methodology, Comparative Analysis, and Legal Analysis depending on the nature of their research. Inclusion of the bibliography at the end is a mandatory requirement.

10. DISSERTATION EXAMINATION

a. Recommendation by the Supervisor

All dissertations must be approved by the student's supervisor prior to examination. The supervisor must confirm in writing that the dissertation is fit for evaluation (**see annex 1**). The signed supervisor's recommendation letter and the student's declaration letter should be attached to the dissertation by the student.

b. Appointment of Examiners

The Faculty of Law, University of Colombo appoints two examiners to mark each dissertation. The dissertation is marked out of 100 marks, and students are required to obtain a pass mark to complete the MHRD Programme.



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Annex I

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

The dissertation titled “.....”
submitted by Mr./Ms..... has been
supervised by me and I have found the dissertation to be in conformity with the required
standard prescribed by the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo. Therefore, it is
recommended for evaluation.

Signature:

Name of the Supervisor :

Designation:

Date:

Remarks/ Disclaimer (if any):

Annex II

Supervision Log

Name of Student:
Student Registration No:
Name of the Supervisor:

Meeting/Discussion - 01

Date:..... Time:.....
Comments - briefly (feed-back, remarks, suggestions):

Supervisor Signature : _____

Meeting/Discussion - 02

Date:..... Time:.....
Comments (feed-back, remarks, suggestions):

Supervisor Signature : _____

Meeting/Discussion - 03

Date:..... Time:.....
Comments (feed-back, remarks, suggestions):

Supervisor Signature : _____

Meeting/Discussion - 04

Date:..... Time:.....
Comments (feed-back, remarks, suggestions):

Supervisor Signature : _____

Meeting/Discussion - 05

Date:.....

Time:.....

Comments (feed-back, remarks, suggestions):

Supervisor Signature : _____

Meeting/Discussion- 06

Date:.....

Time:.....

Comments (feed-back, remarks, suggestions):

Supervisor Signature : _____

Supervisor's Signature:

Date:

- **Notes:**

The number of supervision sessions is between 4 and 7 sessions (can have more if necessary).

Supervision sessions can be either face-to-face meetings or Zoom meetings (This should be approved by the supervisor).

Feedback on draft chapters of the dissertation via email may be counted as one supervision session (as per the agreement between the supervisor and the student).

The student must maintain the supervision log, have it signed by the supervisor, and submit it with the final dissertation.

(Note: Please do not append/annex the supervision log to the dissertation)

Instructions to Candidates

1. Students are required to submit the chapters to their assigned supervisors for the review in every month chapter by chapter. Students should not submit the complete thesis for comments without working on chapter by chapter.
2. Students should submit the final chapter for the review at least three weeks before the submission deadline. If the student does not meet their supervisors or does not incorporate comments and review the chapters, the supervisors can make the decision not to sign the recommendation letter. Without the supervisor's recommendation letter students cannot submit the thesis.
3. The students who are unable to submit their dissertations with their batch without the approval of the Higher Degrees Committee and the Faculty board of the Faculty of Law on medical grounds, maternity leave or any other strong excuse acceptable to the boards with evidence are considered as Not submitted their dissertation.
4. For the title change of the Dissertations, students are required to consult their supervisors and receive their approval for such request in writing. Then, the students should submit that approval letter or email to the Academic Coordinator with a formal request for the title change. In that request, students should mention their name, registration number, name of the supervisor, previous Title and proposed new title.

INTERNSHIP GUIDELINES

Contents

1. Introduction
2. Objectives and Learning Outcomes
3. Expectations of students
4. Learning Structure: Internship
5. Learning Structure: Academic Supervision
6. Require Readings
7. Key dates and submission procedure
8. Assessment
9. Examination
10. Workload
11. Ethical conduct
12. Academic honesty
13. Style Guidelines

Appendix I: Student Data Form

Appendix II: Format of RoU



1. Introduction

Internship - Human Rights and Democratisation Course (MHRD 9104)

Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (MHRD) program offers an internship as one of the elective pathways, whereby students are offered the opportunity to work intensively in a domestic or international organization examining human rights and/or democratisation issues, so as to gain a working knowledge of human rights and/or democratization practice. Under the supervision of the University of Colombo, students will undertake a specific focused task relevant to the organization's mandate. Under the supervision of the University, students will also undertake a specific focused research project which links in with the work undertaken during their internship.

2. Objectives & learning outcomes

Objectives

This program provides an opportunity for students to develop an applied understanding of human rights/democratisation through an internship placement in a domestic or international government or non-government human rights/democratisation organisation, complemented by completion of an academic curriculum, which has been designed to allow students to further explore the themes raised during their internship placements.

It will also provide students who are already working in the field with the opportunity to work in a different type of organisation and to critically reflect on their work so as to return to their organisation with new ideas and skills. Students will gain practical experience of human rights/democratization issues, strategies and practices through an internship placement with a host organisation. Through completion of the academic component, students will gain skills in conception, development and execution of a research project under academic supervision.

Learning Outcomes

At the successful completion of these units of study, students will be able to:

1. Become familiar with the development and operation of human rights/democratization organisations and the creation of networks of advocacy and action, through first-hand experience gained in an internship placement
2. further develop and broaden professional skills;
3. Demonstrate a capacity for thinking critically and constructively about major themes in human rights/democratization discourse and applications;
4. Gather relevant data and analyze relevant debates;
5. Apply a range of conceptual tools to issues affecting understanding, promotion and achievement of human rights/democratization; and
6. Write a critical, well researched and detailed research paper, which engages with key themes/debates raised in the internship placement.

3. Expectations of students

Students are personally responsible for their attendance and performance at the internship and for submission of work, in compliance with requirements and guidelines. During their first semester, students are responsible for timely submission of forms and supporting documentation (including resume, cover letter) leading up to finding a placement.



If you find yourself in difficulty for whatever reason, and unable to meet the requirements set out below, you should contact the Academic Coordinator as soon as possible.

4. Learning Structure: Internship

As a part of the Internship program, successful applicants will undertake a **minimum of 180 hours (approximately 5 weeks) full-time (or equivalent part-time) on placement at an organisation working on human rights and/or democratisation issues.**

In conjunction with academic supervision, the internship serves as the primary learning environment for students participating in this program.

Identifying and securing an internship

To make an application for an internship, students should begin by filling out a ‘Student Data Form’ (see Appendix 1), which they must complete and submit, along with all required supporting documentation, **by the beginning of December (the specific date will be notified).** This will begin the process of identifying a suitable placement but for students choosing this elective. The student data form provides an opportunity to work with the Academic Coordinator in determining a suitable internship wish list.

Please note: it is crucial that students are active participants in choosing and facilitating their internship placement, to ensure that they get the most out of their internship.

As part of the process of negotiating as the internship progresses, host organisation may require that students submit a résumé and a cover letter for their consideration. Students should begin to consider the conventions for producing a high-quality resume and cover letter, as these documents may take some time to prepare and edit.

A suitable internship project (see section 9) must also be determined and agreed upon before an internship placement will be approved. The scope of an appropriate internship project will be negotiated between the Academic Coordinator (in consultation with the student) and the host organisation.

The final phase of securing an internship is the ‘offer’ stage. Once an offer for an internship is made and accepted, students are required to have a firm commitment to the internship and all associated provisions and arrangements. These will be outlined in the **Record of Understanding (ROU)** (an agreement you will need to enter with the University and host organization, as per the format in Appendix 3). If there are any serious concerns, these will be considered but we expect that only under exceptional circumstances, would an internship offer not be honored by a student.

The time it takes to negotiate an internship will vary, however, with your cooperation, the Academic Coordinator hopes to finalize all placement arrangements by approximately January. Some Internship organizations may require an interview first with the potential internship student.



5. Learning structure: Academic supervision

Your academic research (i.e. the Internship Research Project undertaken at the University and NOT during the internship) must be produced under academic supervision. An Academic Supervisor will be appointed by the Academic Committee once an internship has been successfully negotiated (details will be outlined in your ROU). The Academic Supervisor will usually be attached to the University and will be someone other than the Internship Supervisor attached to the host institution. Students and supervisors generally meet regularly to ensure appropriate progress is made. It is important that students meet all deadlines for submission of work that are set with the supervisor and keep all appointments.

6. Required Readings

There are no required readings for this course. However, students should ensure they familiarise themselves with the work of the organization that will be hosting them for their internship. Background research could include searching the organisation's website and reading any resources/publications that the organization has produced. In addition, students will be required to create their own reading list relevant to their research project.

7. Key dates and submission procedures

Deadlines (Tentative)

Internship Application due:	31 December 2026
Written assessments due:	Final Internship Research Report due on 30 June 2027
Oral defense:	This component is discretionary and will be advised by the Academic Coordinator

Submission

Internship Application

Students are required to submit their internship application (please see Appendix 1) to Academic Coordinator.

Internship Research Report

The internship research report must be submitted to the supervisors and Academic Coordinator. Students are also required to formally submit their internship research report through the CSHR Moodle (<http://lms.cmb.ac.lk/cshr/>). Please note that internship research reports will be checked for originality and plagiarism.

8. Assessment

The internship should support both skills and knowledge development and assist the student in integrating scholarly and practical dimensions of their learning. That is, as well as learning more about the field of the specialization of the organization in which you are interning and the nature of this type of organization, you will be learning about the reality of working in an organization, or one different to the ones in which you have worked in the past. You will also be learning about how the scholarship in the fields of human rights and democratization are linked with practice and how the fields of scholarship and practice do or do not inform each other.



Assessment description:	Tentative date:	Word Length or equivalent (Weighting)
1. Organisational Output: To the Organisation	30 June 2027 Varies from institution to Institution (no less than 180 hours (compulsory)	6000 – 8000 words
2. Internship Reflections : To the Examination Branch	30 June 2027	3000 words
3. Submission of Internship Research Report: to the Examination Branch	30 June 2027	6000 – 8000 words

*Students should submit two hard bound copies of each component to the Examination Branch of the University of Colombo and Upload the softcopies to the LMS of the MHRD Page on the Submission Date.



Internship Placement

Minimum 180 hours (compulsory)

Due: as per ROU

Successful completion of the internship placement is a core requirement for successful completion of the internship units. Students are required to comply with the terms of the ROU negotiated for their placement, including:

- Full and punctual attendance: documentation required to support absences
- Dress code
- Any ethical conditions applied
- Completion of organisational output (see assessments below)
- Reporting (see details below)

The Internship Supervisor at the host organization and the Academic Coordinator at the University will assess successful completion of the internship. At the end of your internship, the host organisation will be required to indicate if you are satisfied with the terms of the ROU. The Academic Coordinator will also need to sign-off on your internship, particularly regarding the requirement for reporting during your internship placement.

Reporting

Students are required to remain in regular contact with the Academic Coordinator at the University for the duration of the placement. This communication will ensure that: a) the Academic Coordinator is aware of any problems you may be experiencing and can assist as appropriate, b) the Academic Coordinator can monitor the progress of your internship, particularly regarding synergies with your academic work.

Students are required to send fortnightly emails to the Academic Coordinator addressing the following:

1. Any problems/disruptions to the placement work
2. Progress on the Contribution to Organisation

The student should also arrange at least one mid-placement meeting with the Academic Coordinator (i.e. mid-internship review) during the course of the internship with the Academic Coordinator to ensure that the internship is progressing to the students' satisfaction and to discuss any issues.

Should the student wish to schedule additional meetings, he or she should negotiate this with the Academic Coordinator.

9. Examination

(a) Organisational Output (6000-8000 words or equivalent) / Due: End of placement

During your time at the organization in which you are interning, you will be producing something of value for the organisation. This may be a research report, a media strategy, a



workshop, a set of recommendations for the organization, an evaluation of the organization's work or some other product that is negotiated at the initial meeting. As the product may not be written but may be an action or a multi-media product, the size of the product should be 'equivalent' to a 6,000-8,000 word paper, indicating that it should be the result of approximately the same amount of work as negotiated by the student, organizational supervisor and Academic Coordinator at the initial meeting. Students are urged to keep a detailed diary of their daily activities. This can be used in cases where the Contribution to Organisation is not tangible (for example workshops, coordinating groups, or running meetings).

Assessment

In assessing this product, the following criteria will be applied:

1. Integration
Application of scholarly knowledge to the field
2. Skills development as identified in the TOR.
3. Usefulness
Ability to identify the problem
Ability to analyze the problem
Ability to identify a practical solution to the problem
Ability to implement the solution using contextually appropriate tools
4. Cooperation with the organization
Sensitivity to the context and issues
5. Communication skills;
Ability to work in a multicultural environment.

(b) Internship Reflections (3000 words) / Due: End of placement

In this reflective piece, you will be required to reflect on your work in the organisation and how your experience is related to the scholarly dimensions of your degree. The Reflection on Internship should address each of the following and will be assessed according to how well each component is addressed.

That is, you will write about:

1. How you integrated scholarship into your practice;
2. The skills you developed;
3. How useful you think the product was (using the sub-criteria);
4. How you cooperate with the organisation in which you worked.

This assignment will be assessed with the product and will assist in the assessment of the criteria for that assignment.



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Internship Research Report Assessment Tasks

Internship Research Report

6000-8000 words

Due: 30 June 2027

The Internship Research Project should take some aspect of the work that you did or that was done by the organisation in which you interned and examine it from a scholarly perspective. Your paper should be framed as an answer to a question that is researchable, as discussed in the research methods course.

For example; if you were working in the field of trafficking, you might ask how the concept of gender is taken into account in the development of policies to prevent trafficking, or if you were working in the field of development, you might ask how rights-based approaches to development are being implemented in the field.

You do not need to identify your research question at the beginning of the internship, but you should have done so by the time of your mid-internship review with the Academic Coordinator. You should seek advice from the Academic Coordinator on your topic and approach, and you need approval from the Academic Coordinator.

Given the limitations of this task, you will be unlikely to be adopting a research methodology that includes original empirical research, unless you are already undertaking this research as part of your internship. Nevertheless, the assignment should include the following elements:

1. Clear statement of the question and the problem;
2. Literature review;
3. Relevant theoretical framework;
4. Findings;
5. Conclusions and further research.

Assessment

The Internship Research Report will be assessed using the following criteria:

- (a) Clarity and appropriateness of the question (is it researchable);
- (b) Grasp of literature;
- (c) Clarity and coherence of the argument and the analysis;
- (d) Ability to synthesize the work of the organization with scholarly literature;
- (e) Clarity of expression;
- (f) Referencing.

Internship Research Report – Grading

The Faculty of Law, University of Colombo appoints two examiners to mark each dissertation. The dissertation is marked out of 100 marks, and students are required to obtain a pass mark to complete the MHRD Programme. In the event of disparity between marks given by/grades allocated by the two examiners, the grade reconciliation process of the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo is followed.

The final grade awarded may take into consideration an Oral Defence (see below). Please note, in some instances, the examination committee may require revisions before the release of grade (i.e. to address substantive weaknesses in the submission, such as factual inaccuracies).



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Organisational Output

Two examiners, (one appointed by the University and one from the internship organization), will grade this assessment, including parts A (Contribution to Organisation) and B (Reflection on Internship).

The student will be required to make a short presentation (akin to an Oral Defense) of the Contribution to Organisation before a panel comprising the two examiners. This presentation permits students to clarify the findings of their Contribution to the Organization and will assist examiners in evaluating the work produced.

The examiners will thereafter determine a combined **pass** or **fail** grade for the Organisational Output (i.e. Contribution to Organisation and Reflection on Internship).

Oral Defense

Students may be required to complete an Oral Defence to support the work associated with their Internship Research Project. The Oral Defence permits students to clarify the findings of their Internship Research Project and will assist examiners in evaluating the work produced. Accordingly, the examiners for your assessment will participate in the Oral Defense. Students will be advised whether oral defence will be required.

1. Workload

Please note: the internship hours are calculated to be the approximate equivalent workload of the seminar and required reading time for 12 credit points of study.

Accordingly, the workload associated with three typical 6 credit point units of study, comprising seminar hours and weekly reading time, is calculated to be approximately to the minimum 180 working hours required for the internship placement:

- Internship: minimum 180 hours
- Typical workload: 13 (weeks) x 6 (weekly 3-hour seminars and weekly 3 hours of required reading time) x 3 (units of study) = 234 hours
- Internship hours above 234 hours should only be offered on a voluntary basis by students

In addition, the assessment output required for these units of study is calculated to be the approximate equivalent assessment workload required for 12 credit points of study, noting that approximately 6000 words of written work (or equivalent) are required per unit of study. Accordingly:

- 6000-8000 required for the Contribution to Organization and 3000 required for the Reflection on Internship tasks respectively.
- 6000-8000 Words of Written Work - the Internship Research Report.

2. Ethical conduct

Ethical conduct is imperative in both practice and scholarship. Organisations will have expectations of ethical conduct, in some cases – particularly where organisations work with vulnerable groups such as women and children – a placement organization will set particular expectations around ethical behavior during an internship (as would be outlined in an ROU, see appendix 3). The parameters for ethical conduct during a placement will be set by a host organization and will of course rely on your own understanding of ethical practice.

Universities also set clear expectations around ethical conduct. Indeed, for research involving humans (i.e. interactions with humans), ethical clearance is generally required. Students enrolled in the Master of Human Rights and Democratisation require ethical clearance from the Ethics Committee of University of Colombo for research involving humans. As such, your Internship Research Projects cannot be based on interactions with humans without first securing ethical clearance (which would need to be obtained during your second semester). While your interactions with humans are not restricted in the context of your placement, where ethical conduct is (as described above) overseen by your host institution, your scholarly work, which is produced for the University, would require clearance and is thus constrained in this respect.

3. Academic honesty

Any work that is plagiarized, or acts of dishonesty, is taken seriously by the University of Colombo, and students should familiarise themselves with the relevant policies during their course of study. Serious offences may fail the student.

4. Style guidelines

Referencing

Students should check with their academic supervisor and/or Academic Coordinator regarding any style preferences for reference. APA preferred.

Some tricky issues to do with referencing are likely to emerge in any research project, particularly if sources such as interviews, unpublished theses, archival material or other 'unusual' sources are used. Leave plenty of time to sort these out. The presentation of the bibliography is directly related to the referencing system used.

APPENDIX 1

STUDENT DATA FORM

HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATISATION
INTERNSHIP

Important:

This form will be used to assist the Academic Coordinator in arranging an internship for your Second Semester of studies. While the Academic Coordinator will make every effort to accommodate your preferences, students will not always be placed with a nominated organisation or indeed assigned to work on their preferred area of interest. Internship applications depend on a range of factors including the sustainability of a student's qualifications for placement; the capacity of an organisation to host a student; and the current campaign priorities of an organisation. Students should be aware that **internships are not paid positions**. To assist in the process of securing a placement for your second semester of study, please complete below (please type in your responses).

Name:

.....

Address:

.....

Email:

.....

Telephone:

.....

Date:

.....

Please answer questions below:

1. What were your previous degree/s and what were your majors?

.....

2. Outline relevant work experience, past and present

.....

3. What areas/ issues of human rights/democratization are you most interested in?

.....

.....

.....

.....

4. What type of work would you like to do (government, non-government, large/small organisation)?

.....

.....

.....

.....

5. Preferred workplace, if any (office or field)?

.....

.....

.....

.....

6. Have you approached any organisation in relation to your internship on your own - if so please list

.....

.....

.....

.....

7. Please identify a 'wish list' of three organisations you would like to be placed with and why?

.....

.....

.....

.....

8. Please indicate key knowledge and skills you could bring to an internship

.....

.....

.....

.....

9. Please indicate key knowledge and skills you would like to gain during an internship

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Required documentation

1. Completed student data form
2. Full or abbreviated resume
3. Copies of any past transcript(s)
4. A sample of writing (e.g. a past assignment)

Please submit your application to the Academic Coordinator by December 2026

For office use only:

Academic transcript attached	Yes		No	
Resume attached	Yes		No	
Writing sample attached	Yes		No	

Commencement Date:

Completion date:

Appendix II



University of Colombo
Faculty of Law
Centre for the Study of Human Rights

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM - STUDENT GUIDELINES (Guidelines)

[Please insert Host Organisation name]

1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

These Guidelines record the understanding of all parties involved in a Master of Human Rights and Democratisation Internship: the student, the Centre for the Study of Human Rights and the internship organisation (Host Organisation). Its primary purpose is to establish a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders from each party, including specific responsibilities of the student, Internship Supervisor (Host Organisation), Academic Coordinator (CSHR) and Academic Supervisor (University of Colombo).

Its secondary purpose is to collect and store important information about the internship arrangements including: the student's profile (Section 2); university contact and supervision details (Section 3); access to and use of facilities (section 4); student expectations (Section 2) and placement details (Section 5) which include the personal information of the student. This information will be stored by the University of Colombo in accordance with its privacy and personal information protection policies.

These Guidelines should be read in conjunction with the Student Guidelines and the Human Rights and Democratisation Internship Guidelines, which provides an overview of the internship program including the students' responsibilities to successfully complete the academic component of this program. The student and the relevant representatives of the host Organisation and the University of Colombo, Internship Supervisor, Academic Coordinator and Academic Supervisor are required to sign this document, indicating the adherence of the roles of the Internship Supervisor, the Internship Coordinator and the Academic Supervisor with the document (Section 7).

2. STUDENT PROFILE (Student to complete)

Name/ Student No:	
Phone:	
Email:	

<i>Key knowledge/ skills I can bring to the internship:</i>	
<i>Key knowledge/ skills I would like to gain during the internship:</i>	
<i>Declaration:</i> <i>(Please initial _____)</i>	I understand I am required to represent the University to the highest standard during my internship. This includes attending every day of the placement (please contact the Academic Coordinator and your Internship Supervisor immediately if you are unable to attend on any given day and ensure you submit supporting documentation to account for any absences); being punctual; dressing appropriately, and; being courteous at all times.

3. COORDINATOR AND SUPERVISOR DETAILS (University of Colombo to complete)

<i>Academic Coordinator:</i>	
<i>Address:</i>	
<i>Phone:</i>	
<i>Email:</i>	
<i>Academic Supervisor</i>	
<i>Address:</i>	
<i>Phone:</i>	
<i>Email:</i>	

4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF FACILITIES (University of Colombo to complete)

Key facilities available for students to use:

5. PLACEMENT DETAILS (Host Organisation or University of Colombo to complete)

Organisation:	
Address:	
Internship Supervisor:	
Phone:	
Email:	
Internship dates:	
Working hours:	

Please describe the internship project and key tasks the student will perform during the placement:

Please indicate any confidentiality provisions that apply to this internship:

Do you give permission to the University of Colombo to produce a brief case study for this internship? The University of Colombo would be free to use the case study for its own purposes, including in marketing materials and publishing online.

Yes ☐

No ☐

6. PRIVACY

Each of the parties that retain a copy of this document undertakes to retain the personal information of the student and only use and retain it for the purposes of the student's internship.

7. Signatures

The signatories below undertake that they have read and understood the Human Rights and Democratisation Internship Guidelines, as well as the conditions set out in these Guidelines.

<i>Name of Student:</i>	
<i>Signed:</i>	
<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Name of Academic Coordinator:</i>	
<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Name of Internship Supervisor:</i>	
<i>Date:</i>	
Signed on behalf of the Host Organisation	
Signed on behalf of the University of Colombo	

Please note copies of this document will be given to the: student, the host organisation, and the academic supervisor. The Host Organisation and the University of Colombo must retain the same in accordance with their Privacy policies. A copy will be kept in the file at the University of Colombo. The original will be filed by the Academic Coordinator.

**University of Colombo
Faculty of Law
Centre for the Study of Human Rights**

Plagiarism Policy

Academic submissions (assignments, dissertations, presentations, etc.) require students to build on existing academic scholarship (sources). It is standard academic practice to acknowledge the thoughts, ideas, and expressions contained in the writings/articulations of scholars, academics, authors, journalists etc. Such an acknowledgement is referred to as a 'citation'.

A failure to cite academic sources results in the breach of the standard practice (outlined above), which is referred to as "plagiarism". In summary, plagiarism is 'any act' relating to the intellectual production (both published and unpublished work) that directly or indirectly claims someone else's thoughts and ideas as one's own.

Plagiarism is an 'academic offence, which is punishable according to university regulations.

The risk of plagiarism is high when one intentionally or unintentionally fails to do the following (among other lapses)

- Not proofreading or editing assignment/dissertation etc.
- Failing to make accurate records and notes of – ideas, thoughts, words, and phrases that were originally someone else's
- Failing to distinguish between one's own thoughts/arguments from the writings and ideas based on which one's arguments and discussions are developed

While some acts of plagiarism may be unintentional, the student still bears the primary responsibility of following 'good academic practice'.

The following is a standard guideline that the CSHR expects you to follow when handing in any piece of academic writing (assignment, dissertation etc.). Please note, these guidelines are a basic policy standard, and you may be required to take other measures relevant to your writing/research, in order to cite sources correctly and maintain good academic practice.

Basic Guidelines for Good Practice in Academic Writing

- a) Use quotation marks when reproducing the words of someone else 'verbatim'; insert the page number of the book, or a reference to the recording etc.
- b) Cite sources when paraphrasing ideas/analysis /theories, and using single inverted commas where necessary
- c) Cite the source in every instance of direct and indirect paraphrasing
- d) Cite sources used in the lecture, if drawing on lecture notes (and refer to the source, where available, for page numbers etc.)
- e) Cite web sources correctly, using the URL, or the DOI (where available), and include the date on which the internet source was accessed
- f) Cite sources in full, even if the source is quoted second hand (i.e. if the source is not what you are reading, but is quoted on the text that you are reading) – a secondary source
- g) Do not reproduce another student's work

- h) Do not reproduce your own work (which has been published elsewhere, or which has already been submitted) without crediting the original source – that is, avoid ‘self- plagiarism’

The following actions will be taken in case of plagiarism

1. The student will be informed of an ‘alleged plagiarism’, and will have the right to reply
2. The student may consult an academic advisor who oversees his /her/their assignment or academic progress
3. The Academic Committee of the CSHR will assess the students’ response and decide if further action needs to be taken by the Examinations Committee of the University
4. Proof of plagiarism will result in zero marks for the work in question, and departments shall not allow resubmission of the assignment
5. In cases where plagiarism is unintentional, the student will receive zero marks for the assignment but will have the opportunity to resubmit the assignment

Student Response

I, _____, have read and understood the contents of CSHR’s plagiarism policy and hereby agree to abide by its guidelines and standards, as a minimum requirement.

Name (with initials):

Registration No:

Signature:

Date:

ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Attendance
3. Assignments
4. Semester End Examinations
5. Re-registration

1. Introduction

This guideline has been formulated to support the effective administration of the MHRD. It clarifies the requirements of the MHRD bylaws. For any matters that have not been addressed here, don't hesitate to get in touch with the Administrative Coordinator/Academic Coordinator of the MHRD program.

2. Attendance

- a. 80% attendance is required to sit the end of semester examinations. (Which means that the maximum amount you may be absent is 20% of the total).
- b. The Academic Coordinator needs to be informed if you are unable to attend lectures, even though you are within the permitted 20% margin (the number of classes corresponding to the 20% will be given to students)
- c. Only if your excuse for non-attendance falls within the category of a 'valid excuse' (medical reasons, travel abroad for employment or conferences only), will it not be counted against the required 80%
- d. If your attendance falls short of the required 80% 2 weeks prior to exams, you will not be permitted to sit the exams unless, either –
 1. A valid excuse (with evidence) is submitted to the Academic Committee, CSHR and Higher Degrees Committee and Faculty Board of the Faculty of Law.
 2. The Academic Committee considers an attendance percentage of less than 80% (and you have achieved the revised attendance)
- e. However, the final decision concerning issuing exam admissions for the students who do not have the required attendance percentage will be decided by the academic committee of the CSHR with the approval of the Higher Degrees Committee of the Faculty of Law.

3. Assignments:

- a. Assignments must be completed and submitted to the CSHR within the assignment period/deadline stipulated by the Academic Coordinator
- b. Students must upload the soft copy of their assignment to the Moodle (online) space given the CSHR.
- c. If an assignment cannot be completed or submitted by the stipulated deadline, the Academic Coordinator must be informed with supporting evidence at least five (05) days prior to the deadline, or as soon as reasonably practicable in exceptional circumstances such as medical emergencies, accidents, or natural disasters.
- d. Failure to submit an assignment on the deadline without a valid excuse will be considered an 'exhausted attempt'
- e. A failed assignment (for reasons of non-submission without notice, or otherwise) may be repeated in the following academic year, subsequent to a process of 're-registration'.
- f. The Academic committee of the CSHR, Faculty of Law, may decide to reduce the total marks (10% - 15 % from the total marks = 3.5 marks or above) for the assignments submitted after the deadlines (if submitted late, without valid excuses

submitted to the academic coordinator/ MHRD with evidence).

4. Semester-end Examinations:

- a) Semester-end examinations will be held on the date(s) stipulated by the Academic Committee of the CSHR, Higher degrees Committee, Faculty Board of the Faculty of Law and endorsed by the Examinations Branch, University of Colombo at the examination Hall of the University of Colombo.
- b) Exam dates will not be revised, unless it is a matter of grave urgency and unavoidable circumstances. The decision to reschedule the examination is made by the Higher Degrees Committee and Faculty Board of the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo.
- c) If a student is unable to sit for an examination, the Academic Coordinator must be informed at least two weeks prior to the examination and before the examination admission is issued. If a student fails to appear after the admission has been issued, they must submit a formal request with supporting evidence, particularly on medical grounds. Otherwise, failure to appear for the exam after issuing the admissions to the students is considered absent.
- d) Receiving a Fail grade, being marked Absent for a subject, or being subject to disciplinary action for an examination offence may affect a student's eligibility for honorary grades, including Distinction and Merit, and may affect the final grade awarded for the MHRD degree in the following academic year, subsequent to a process of 're-registration'.
- e) In view that MHRD examinations are 'Limited resources open book examination', students are allowed to take certain stipulated statutes and International Treaties into the examinations hall (*Annexure I*). These documents will be checked prior to the exams for notes and markings which are not allowed. Any documents not submitted on the stipulated date for checking will not be allowed into the examination hall.

Instructions to Candidates

In addition to the information provided in this Student Handbook, please note the following:

- **Continuous Assessment:** Guidelines for continuous assessment will be issued along with the assignment notice for each subject. It is mandatory to follow the given assignment instructions.
- **Research Proposal & Dissertation:** Additional information/ documents on how to write a research proposal, including its structure, will be provided in due course. Supervisors will also offer individual guidance on the structure of the dissertation.
- **Examinations:** Information regarding examination rules and procedures will be shared in due course.
- **Ethics Approval:** The institution requires two months to process applications for ethics approval of the final research. Student/students must therefore submit their applications within the deadline. As a mandatory requirement, student/students are expected to consult your supervisor on whether ethics approval is necessary. This discussion must be recorded in one of your supervisory meeting records/logs.
- **Effect of Absences, Not-Submissions or Non-Completion (receiving a fail grade) on Honorary Grades:** Failure to submit the dissertation, absence from an examination (even for a subject), or failure to complete any required course component including dissertation may result in a student being ineligible for honorary grades, including **Distinction or Merit**, at graduation.
- **AI Policy of the University of Colombo:** Students are requested to follow the University of Colombo Artificial Intelligence Policy when submitting their assignments, presentations materials, Research proposals and dissertations. If a student has found violated the AI policy of the University of Colombo in the written assignments, research proposals and/or dissertations, submitted for evaluation by the examiner/ academic coordinator, the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo will decide on the necessary actions to be taken for that violation, after an inquiry following the university policy and practice.

The AI Policy can be downloaded:

from <https://drive.google.com/file/d/165TMDsRcr6zQtCUSwrqE9q5qIrLnpFeM/view>

Academic Support and Guidance

If you require assistance regarding academic matters such as course registration, examinations, or dissertation-related issues, please write to the Academic Coordinator via email.

Appointments for Meetings

Students may meet the Academic Coordinator or Course Coordinator for consultations by appointment at the CSHR, University of Colombo.

Email: mhrd.academic@cshr.cmb.ac.lk (Academic Coordinator)

Email: mhrd@cshr.cmb.ac.lk (Course Coordinator)

Course Team – MHRD Programme

Director



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*LL.B (Hon.) Col., LL.M (Malaya), PhD (Colombo)
Attorney at Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka*

Director, CSHR

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resource.centre@cshr.cmb.ac.lk

Key Information

Postal address	The Director Centre for the Study of Human Rights Faculty of Law, University of Colombo 94, Cumaratunga Munidasa Mawatha Colombo 03 Sri Lanka
General contact	0112-500879 / 0112-503017
Website	https://cshr.cmb.ac.lk/
MHRD programme page	https://cshr.cmb.ac.lk/education/mhrd/
APMA programme page	https://cshr.cmb.ac.lk/apma/

Annexure I

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
Faculty of Law
Centre for the Study of Human Rights
Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (MHRD) 2026/27

Instructions on Permitted Printed Resources to Use at the Examinations

1. Name of the Examination: Semester I & II End Examination of the MHRD

- (a) **Mode of the Exam:** On-site examination
- (b) **Type:** Limited resources-open book examination

2. Instructions on Permitted Printed Resources to Use at the Examination:

(i) Authorised Materials:

Candidates are permitted to bring **CLEAN printed copies** of the following resources only:

- a) UN Charter
- b) UDHR
- c) International treaties (Eg: UN Human Rights Treaties and Protocols such as ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW, CRC, Geneva Conventions and ILO Conventions, etc.)
- d) Constitution of Sri Lanka and any other country
- e) Statutes of Sri Lanka and any other country / Legislative Enactments
- f) Regional Conventions (Eg: SAARC conventions, EU Conventions)

(ii) Prohibited Materials:

The following items are **not permitted**:

- a) Judicial decisions
- b) Textbooks
- c) Articles
- d) Commentaries on International Conventions or Statutes
- e) Book chapters
- f) PowerPoint presentations
- g) Lecture handouts
- h) Handwritten notes
- i) Short Notes
- j) Reviews on permitted materials
- k) UN Resolutions
- l) Country Reports
- m) Concluding Observations
- n) General Comments and General Recommendations
- o) Any other material not specified in section (i)

(iii) Supervisor's Authority:

The designated supervisor holds the authority to confiscate any unauthorised materials before or during the examination. This includes materials containing handwritten notes, underlining, or highlighting. **Only clean hard copies** are allowed.

Annexure II

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
Faculty of Law
Centre for the Study of Human Rights
STUDENT REQUEST FORM

(Please fill this form and submit along with supportive documents)

1. **Name of the student** :
2. **Programme enrolled in** :
3. **Registration Number** :

4. **Type of the request (please tick off):**

- a. Deferment of the programme ☐
- b. Extension of the deadline of Thesis/ Dissertation ☐
- c. Absence for the Semester-end examination ☐
- d. Other (please specify) ☐

5. **Reason for the request (please tick off):**

- a. Medical ☐
- b. Official ☐
- c. Personal ☐
- d. Other ☐

6. **Letter explaining the reason for the request (self-prepared) attached:** ☐

7. **Evidence attached (please tick off):**

- a. Medical certificate from a medical practitioner ☐
- b. Official letter from the workplace ☐
- c. Other (please specify)..... ☐

I do here by confirm that the information furnished above by me are true and correct.

Signature of the Student:..... Date:

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Received on:
(Date)

Recommendation/ observations of the Academic Coordinator:

Name of the Academic Coordinator:

Signature: Date:.....

Forwarded to Academic Committee:

Signature of the Director

Date:

Course Title	Human Rights Norms and Mechanisms Part I (HRNM I)		
Course Code	MHRD 9101	Notional Hours	150 hours Lectures, Class discussions, Guided Readings, Tutorials, Self-Learning
No. of Credits	03		
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	Core		

Course Description

This is the first part of a two-part full year unit, which will provide students with the foundational understanding of the content of human rights norms as well as the philosophical justifications for those norms. Philosophical and historical and more positivist perspectives on human rights norms will be brought together in this unit so that students gain a grasp not only of what the treaties or other instruments actually say, but are also able to understand the justification for norms that become law and to think about how to develop other justifications in the different cultural and social contexts. The course will also provide students with a foundational knowledge about the major institutional protection mechanisms that human rights advocates might use, including the operation of treaty and charter bodies of the UN and regional protection mechanisms (European, African, Inter-American, Asian in development). Protection mechanisms will be taught using a case study method where students examine how particular protection mechanisms have been used to defend particular human rights or promote the protection of particular rights in different contexts. In particular, the unit will examine not only more traditional mechanisms designed to ensure the protection of civil and political rights but also new developments seeking to ensure that states fulfil their obligations in these areas. Finally, students will examine different models for how international treaty obligations can be translated into domestic law and policy and how human rights organisations can contribute to mainstreaming human rights into various areas of judicial decision making and policy.

Learning Objectives

1. To provide students a foundational understanding of the content of human rights norms as well as the philosophical justifications for those norms.
2. To provide students a key knowledge about the major institutional protection mechanisms, including the operation of treaty and charter bodies of the UN and regional protection mechanisms

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, a successful student will be able to gain:

1. A sound knowledge of the basic content of the major international human rights instruments;
2. The ability to debate the philosophical justifications for human rights norms, including critiques of human rights as a normative framework;
3. An understanding of the conceptual and historical relationship between human rights

Approved by the Council

Meeting No 6/16

Date 13.01.2024

and democracy; 4. Knowledge of the historical and ongoing development of human rights norms and the ongoing contestation and expansion of the normative content of human rights; 5. Understanding some of the key critiques of a human rights approach to advocacy and some limits of the approach; 6. A practical understanding of the major international mechanisms for rights protection including the operation of charter and treaty-based bodies as well as regional protection mechanisms; 7. A basic understanding of other areas of international law that impact human rights, such as humanitarian law, international criminal law, environmental law and trade law; and 8. Knowledge about the role and obligations of non-State actors vis-à-vis human rights.	
Course contents	Aligned Learning Outcomes
(i) What are rights and what are human rights? (Historical and philosophical background, conceptual interrogation)	1
(ii) Philosophical critiques of human rights (Liberalism, natural law, utilitarianism, feminism)	2
(iii) Sovereignty, cosmopolitanism, universalism and the institutionalisation of human rights (human rights in international politics)	2, 3
(iv) The development of international human rights law, the formation and structure of the UN	4
(v) United Nations, the human rights framework and key institutions (the Human Rights Council, 1503 and 1235 procedures, special rapporteurs, UN reform)	6
(vi) The UN treaty based system (treaty bodies, General Comments, periodic reports, complaints procedures)	6
(vii) Key civil and political rights issues (Racism and equality, torture, disabilities rights)	5
(viii) Key economic, social and cultural rights issues (Progressive realisation, Indigenous Rights)	7
(ix) Allied areas of international law (international criminal law, humanitarian law, refugee law)	8
(x) Nationality and statelessness	
Methods of teaching and learning	
Lectures, Discussions, Case Studies, Independent Studies, Panel Discussions, Audio-Visual.	
Assessment methods	
Assessment Method	Weight

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Continuous assessments	70%
End of semester examination	30%
Key Readings	
- Alston, P. & Goodman, R (2012) <i>International Human Rights</i>, Oxford University Press; 2nd Revised Edition - Clapham, Andrew (2006) <i>Human Rights Obligations of Non-state actors</i>, Oxford University Press - Freeman, M (1994) The Philosophical Foundations of Human Rights in <i>Human Rights Quarterly</i>, Vol. 16, No. 3 (Aug. 1994) - Malanczuk, P (1997) Akehurst's Modern Introduction to International Law (7th Edition), Routledge - Nickle, J. W. (2010) Philosophy of Human Rights in Daniel et. al. <i>International Human Rights Law</i> (Oxford University Press, pp. 38 - 63 - Sheeran S & Rodley N (Ed) (2013) <i>Routledge Handbook of International Human Rights Law</i>, Routledge - Thorup, M. (2010) Cosmopolitanism: Sovereignty denied or sovereignty restated? <i>International Politics</i>, 47 (6), pp. 659-679	

Course Title	Democracy Theory and Practice (DTP)		
Course Code	MHRD 9102	Notional Hours	150 Hours
No. of Credits	03		Lectures, Discussions, Guided Reading, Independent Study, Evaluation preparation, Evaluation
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	Core		
Course Description:			
The course will expose students to different concepts and theories of democracy/democratisation. This will include issues relating to democracy, equality, justice, citizenship and popular sovereignty. The students will also be exposed to institutions and systems needed to maintain democracies such as the rule of law, constitutionalism, independence of the judiciary, independence of the public service, accountability, impunity, regular free and fair elections – electoral systems, democratic governance and accountability, and the role of civil society. The course will throw light on interdependence of and relationship between human rights and democratisation. It will also deal with human rights and democratisation in different economic, social and cultural contexts, including in times of emergencies as well as at time of armed conflicts.			
Learning Objectives			

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1. To enable students to be familiar with the theoretical, methodological and philosophical foundations of democracy and democratisation.
2. To build the knowledge on the relationship between human rights and democracy and enhance contextual understanding.

Learning Outcomes

1. Competency with critical arguments concerning democracy;
2. Familiarity with theories of democratisation;
3. Ability to identify institutions and practices, including electoral processes, that promote or impede democracy;
4. Understanding the factors that marginalise groups from full representation and participation;
5. Understanding processes and practices that promote democratic inclusion, including the recognition of citizenship;
6. Recognising the role of different actors, including political parties, civil society, media, the judiciary and the public service in human rights and democracy;
7. Ability to recognise the significance of the rule of law and constitutionalism in human rights and democracy;
8. Understanding the nexus between human rights and democracy;
9. Ability to recognise the influence of social, economic, cultural factors on democratisation and accountability; and
10. Ability to analyse how human rights and democracy are perceived and implemented in different contexts.

Course Contents	Aligned Learning Outcomes
1. Concepts	
a. Concepts and Theories of Human Rights and Democratisation in Western and Non-Western Contexts	1
b. Interdependence between Human Rights and Democracy	8
c. Democracy, Equality of Justice and Popular Sovereignty	2
d. Democracy and the Rule of Law	3
e. Dilemmas of Democracy and Civil Society	6
2. Institutions and Systems	
f. Constitutionalism and the Rule of Law	2,3
g. Systems of Constitutional Governance	7
h. Rule of Law and Independence of the Judiciary	3
i. Independence of Public Service	6
j. Role of Civil Society	6
k. Role of the Media	6
l. Electoral System	3

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m. Democratic Accountability	
i. Political	9
ii. Legal	9
iii. Judicial	9
3. Contextualisation	
n. Western and Non-Western Notions of Human Rights and Democracy; the understanding, application and implementation of Human Rights and democracy/democratisation in the Asia-Pacific, i.e., contextualisation of Human Rights and democracy/democratisation to the particular political, socio-economic and cultural environment of the Asia-Pacific region.	10
o. Political Rights to Democracy	7,10
p. Group Rights/Minority Rights and Democracy	7,10
q. Human Rights and Democracy during Crises and other Conflict Periods (emergencies not necessarily caused by armed conflict i.e. natural disasters)	10
r. Transitional Democracy/Transition to Democracy	10

Methods of Teaching and Learning

Lectures, Discussions, Case Studies and Guided Reading.

Assessment Methods

Assessment Methods	Weight
Continuous Assessments	70%
End Semester Examination	30%

Key Readings

- Agarwal, R. C. (1991) *Political Theory: Principles of Political Science (Modern And Marxist Concepts)*, S. Chand & Company
- Appadorai, A. (2000) *The Substance of Politics*, Oxford University Press
- Keane, John (2009) *The Life and Death of Democracy*, Pocket Books, p. 686-747
- Langlois, Anthony J. (2003) Human Rights without Democracy? A Critique of the Separationist Theory, 25 *Human Rights Quarterly*, pp 990-1019
- McCorquodale, Robert (2014) Group Rights in Daniel Moeckli, Sangeeta Shah and Sandesh Sivakumaran (eds), *International Human Rights Law*, Oxford University Press, pp. 333-355
- Samuel P. Huntington (1991) Democracy's Third Wave, *Journal of Democracy*, 2(3), pp 12-34
- Schmitter, Philippe C. and Lynn Karl, Terry What Democracy Is... and Is Not, *Journal of Democracy*, 2(3), pp. 75-88,
- Steiner, Henry (2008) Two Sides of the Same Coin? Democracy and International Human Rights, 41:3, *Israel Law Review*, pp, 445-476

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Course Title	Dynamics of Human Rights Violations (DHRV)		
Course Code	MHRD 9103	Notional Hours	150 hours
No. of Credits	03		Lectures, Discussions, Guided Reading, Independent Study
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	Core		
Course Description			
The starting point of this unit is the recognition that effective advocacy requires moving beyond being able to frame instances of suffering or oppression as human rights violations or the failure to fulfil human rights (as articulated in various treaties). Beyond this, effective interventions require the ability to analyse the dynamics underpinning and sustaining violations or impeding fulfilment (for example, economic reliance of industries that use child labour, cultural understandings of the role of women, incentives amongst institutional leaders to suppress opposition etc.). This unit will provide students with the ability to think about causes and sustaining dynamics along a number of dimensions, including cultural, economic, organisational, social and political. Students will look at a number of key case studies (chosen from topical regional issues) from the point of view of these different disciplines to analyse these causal or sustaining dynamics. This analysis will then form the basis for thinking about how to strategically intervene. Judgments about appropriate intervention require not only this sound structural analysis of the problem ('the territory'), but also an understanding of the capacities of one's own organisation and the potential for building alliances. They also require those designing interventions to make judgments about the relative merits of different tactics, including when to make short-term (in principle) compromises for longer-term beneficial outcomes. This unit will take a small number of cases and introduce a number of disciplinary perspectives on the dynamics of those cases. It will also introduce students to a number of conceptual models that have been developed to explain both the intransigence of certain human rights problems and the avenues for change. It will then introduce students to the tactical mapping technique so that they learn to map human rights issues and make considered judgments about where and how to intervene. Students will also be invited here to consider some of the possible unintended consequences of human rights interventions, the moral dilemmas involved in intervention and how different actors involved in the situation (local, international, state, non-state, minorities) may frame the issue of appropriate intervention differently. The unit will also introduce students to two bodies of evaluation literature that are increasingly important in the field. The first of these concerns the assessment of the impact of laws, policies or other developments that are being proposed in a particular nation or locale (for example a mine or a factory). Students will learn how human rights organisations can effectively evaluate			

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the impact of such interventions, including an initial analytic phase, followed by a deliberative phase where effected parties are brought into the impact assessment with the final phase being ongoing monitoring of the law, policy or development. The second body of impact literature concerns the evaluation of human rights interventions themselves. Students will be familiarised with this new literature on how we can evaluate the impact of our own interventions so as to continue to sharpen those interventions.

Explanation

One of the criticisms that human rights organisations have of graduates of human rights programs is that their understanding of human rights is overly abstract and legalistic. What they are looking for are graduates who have more contextualised and practical understandings of human rights. Further, human rights organisations are themselves at a critical stage of trying to work out the most effective way in which to address human rights violations/failures to fulfil human rights and both organisations themselves and the scholarly literature are beginning to question the efficacy of traditional advocacy techniques (naming and shaming, treaty ratification). In this regard, if what we are doing is training the human rights leaders of the future, we need to equip them with the analytic tools both to evaluate the effectiveness of their interventions and to develop more effective ones.

There are several innovations that this unit will introduce. First, rather than students specialising in one disciplinary approach, which will emphasise one type of causal dynamic, the interdisciplinary approach of this unit will allow students to piece together those different lenses and recognise how they complement each other to give a fuller systemic picture. Second, by linking the disciplinary approaches to case studies, it will bring them to life and avoid the danger of their remaining remote and abstract. Third, it uses the tactical mapping tool, a tool developed over the last 10 years by a consortium of human rights actors and academics. This is a tool that will be of ongoing use to graduates in their professional life and includes a database and network of tactics and actors developing and using different tactics which they can join. Fourth, it introduces students to two relatively new and critically important areas of research and intervention in human rights: it will be the first that assesses the impact of laws, policies or other developments introduced by governments or private actors and the second that concerns the assessment of human rights interventions.

Learning Objectives

1. To provide students with the ability to think about causes and sustaining dynamics along a number of dimensions, including cultural, economic, organisational, social and political that affect human rights violations.
2. To introduce students to a number of conceptual models that have been developed to explain both the intransigence of certain human rights problems and the avenues for change.
3. To introduce students to the tactical mapping technique so that they learn to map human rights issues and make considered judgments about where and how to intervene.

Learning Outcomes

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1. The ability to analyse the social, political, economic and cultural factors, processes and institutions that underlie, support or sustain human rights violations and failures to fulfil human rights (social, economic and cultural);
2. The ability to map out this multi-dimensional system underpinning human rights problems and to understand how different disciplines (in particular political science, political economy, sociology, anthropology and human geography) highlight different aspects of this system;
3. Knowledge of key empirical findings concerning structural (economic, social, cultural, political) factors impacting human rights;
4. Familiarity with conceptual explanations for impediments to realisation of human rights and how to effect change;
5. Tactical skills in identifying the options for intervention and the implications of different types of intervention;
6. A broad knowledge of different types of interventions as well as the ability to access networks to discover alternative strategies and tactics;
7. Understanding of the role of coalition-building and coordinating interventions from various actors;
8. The ability to make sound judgments about the pros and cons of different approaches to advocacy, in particular judgments about compromise, the use of insider/outsider or public/private approaches and coalition building;
9. Familiarity with the literature on impact evaluation, knowledge about the techniques for evaluating the impact of different strategies and basic skills in impact evaluation;
10. Knowledge of key empirical findings concerning the impact of human rights interventions; and
11. Familiarity with the processes for evaluating the human rights impact of laws, policies and other social or economic developments in a particular context, including an understanding of the analytic, deliberative and monitoring phases of impact evaluation.

Course Contents	Aligned Learning Outcomes
1 Introduction to transitional justice: dilemmas of dealing with the past	1
2 Introduction to transitional justice components and standards	2
3 Human rights law and the development of transitional justice principles	3
4 Transitional justice and international criminal justice	4
5 Introduction: relationship between constitutions and transitional justice	5
6 Constitutional making/reforms: overcoming barriers to Transitional Justice policies and mechanisms	1
7 Constitutional making/ reform: a tool for non-recurrence	6
8 Sequencing TJ and constitutional reforms	7
9 Practical and policy considerations: Negotiating a TJ policy	8

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10 Assessing the impact of transitional justice policies	11
11 Truth and Reconciliation mandate	10
12 Case study: Nepal, Sri Lanka	9,10
13 Transitional Justice Outside of Institutions / Arts and Culture	11
Methods of Teaching and Learning	
Lectures, Discussions, Case Studies and Guided Reading	
Assessment Methods	
Assessment Method	Weight
Continuous assessments	70%
End of semester examination	30%
Key Readings	
• Khanal, Krishna, The Participatory Constitution making Process in Nepal- An assessment of the CA Process (2008- 2012) Mendez, Juan (2012) Constitutionalism and Transitional Justice' in Rosenfeld and Sajo (eds), <i>Oxford Handbook of Comparative Law</i>, Oxford University Press, pp. 1270-86 • Seneviratne, W, (2012) <i>Transition from War to Peace: Critical Study of Post War Reconciliation through Transitional Justice</i>, Monograph, published by the LLM Unit, Faculty of Law, Colombo • Teitel, Ruri (2002) <i>Constitutional Justice' in Transitional Justice</i>, Oxford University Press, p 191-212 • Zalaquett, José (1992) Balancing Ethical Imperatives and Political Constraints: The Dilemmas of New Democracies Confronting Past Human Rights Violations, <i>Hastings Law Journal</i>, pp. 1425-1438	

Course Title	Human Rights and Democratisation Research (HRDR)		
Course Code	MHRD 9104	Notional Hours	150 hours
No. of Credits	03		Lectures, Class discussions, Tutorials, Self-Learning, Guided Readings, preparation for Evaluation and the Evaluation.
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	Core		
Course Description			
Students will be exposed to a range of research methods as applied to actual human rights issues. A case study approach will ensure that students can see the relevance of different research approaches and develop the ability to make judgments about when to use a particular			

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method. The unit will cover specific research techniques relevant to the field, in particular interviews and fieldwork.

Students will also be exposed to the key sources of information about human rights and will acquire the research skills to be able to look for the information they might require in researching human rights problems and comparative cases. The unit will also emphasise the products of research and ensure that students have the skills both to think about the most appropriate/effective format for presentation of findings and the ability to use a number of different formats. The emphasis here will be on how research gets fed into broader advocacy and institutional change processes.

Learning Objectives

1. To be exposed to various methods of human rights and democracy issues.
2. To develop skills in writing reports for different audiences, using alternative media to ensure maximum exposure and accessibility of their research findings.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, a successful student will be able to:

1. Understanding of the role of research in the field of human rights and democratisation;
2. Sound understanding of a range of quantitative and qualitative research methodologies relevant to researching human rights issues;
3. Ability to conduct interviews that will produce sound data on human rights issues;
4. Analytic capacity to judge appropriate research methodology choices;
5. Ability to critically and analytically interpret qualitative and quantitative research on human rights issues;
6. Ability to locate and meaningfully use sources of information relevant for human rights research, including reports and data sets of the UN and other international and national bodies and NGOs;
7. Ability to write a research proposal and make appropriate judgments concerning the feasibility of research (including considerations of time, budget, personnel and expertise);
8. Knowledge and skills required to effectively monitor human rights situations;
9. Ability to present the research in formats that will be effective within a broader strategy of advocacy; and
10. Familiarity with and ability to present research findings using a range of media, including written reports, press releases, websites, film, radio and other new technology formats.

Course contents	Aligned Learning Outcomes
1. Understanding what research is, the role of research in human rights work and the importance of a critical approach to research	1
2. Methodological debates, options and issues (qualitative and quantitative methods)	1, 2
3. The importance of making good arguments	2

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4. Designing research, formulating research questions and making methodological choices	3,4,5
5. Writing a research proposal	7
6. Literature reviews	6
7. Using secondary literature and accessing data sources	6
8. Research ethics	8
9. Surveys, constructing questionnaires and sampling	3, 8
10. Fieldwork and participatory research	3
11. Quantitative/statistical analysis	5
12. Presenting research	9
Methods of teaching and learning	
Lectures, Discussions, Case Studies, Independent Studies, Panel Discussions, Audio-Visual.	
Assessment methods	
Assessment Method	Weight
Continuous assessments	70%
End of semester examination	30%
Key Readings	
• Bryman A, Bell E, Teevan J (2012) The Nature of Qualitative Research, Social Research Methods, 2012, Oxford University Press, 132- 189pp • Uyangoda, Jayadeva (2012) Writing Research Proposals in the Social Sciences and Humanities, Social Scientists' Association, Colombo • Marks, S.P. The Human Rights Framework for Development: Seven Approaches • Reed, Kristin & Padskocimaite Ausra (2012), The Rights Tool Kit - Applying Research Methods in the Service of Human Rights, UC Berkeley • Wiscker, G. (2007) The Post-graduate Research Handbook, Red Globe Press	

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Course Title	Human Rights Norms and Mechanisms - Part II (HRNM II)		
Course Code	MHRD 9201	Notional Hours	150 hours
No. of Credits	03		Lectures, Discussions, Guided Reading, Independent Study
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	Core		
Course Description:			
This unit forms the second part of the year-long unit OF Human Rights Norms and Mechanisms. The focus here will be on the content of human rights treaties, regional and domestic implementation.			
Learning Objectives			
1. To provide students a key knowledge about the major institutional protection mechanisms, including the operation of treaty and charter bodies of the UN and regional protection mechanisms.			
Learning Outcomes			
At the end of the course, a successful student will be able to gain:			
1. A sound knowledge of the basic content of the major international human rights instruments and mechanism;			
2. A practical understanding of the major international mechanisms for rights protection including the operation of charter and treaty-based bodies as well as regional protection mechanisms;			
3. A basic understanding of other areas of international law that impact human rights, such as humanitarian law, international criminal law, environmental law and trade law; and			
4. Knowledge about the role and obligations of non-State actors vis-à-vis human rights.			
Course Contents			Aligned Learning Outcomes
1. The relationship between international and domestic law and policy making (practical difficulties involved in translation from international commitment to domestic implementation)			1
2. Key areas and rights covered in the major international treaties (ICCPR – free speech, freedom of religion; ICESCR – justiciability, indivisibility issues, education, health, food, water, housing; CEDAW; CRC)			3
3. How states can be held to account for social and economic rights (obligations to fulfil)			3

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4. Regional systems, treaties and processes (Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia);	
5. The UN system (country specific mechanisms, region specific study on Universal Periodic Review, Special Procedures, UN Human Rights Councils)	2
6. National decision-making (fundamental guarantees under the constitutions, courts, National Human Rights Institutions, policing)	2
7. Non-state protection mechanisms and Non-governmental Organisations	4
8. International Humanitarian Law (Geneva Conventions; International Criminal Law)	3
Methods of Teaching and Learning	
Lectures, Discussions, Case Studies and Guided Reading	
Assessment Methods	
Assessment Method	Weight
Continuous assessments	70%
End semester examination	30%
Key Readings	
• Beilefeldt, Heiner (2012) Freedom of Religion or Belief: Human Right under Pressure, <i>Oxford Journal of Law and Religion</i>, 1(1), pp.15-35 • Cavallaro, James L & Schaffer, Emily J. (2007) Justice before Justiciability: Inter American Litigation and Social Change, <i>N.Y.U. J. Int'l L. & Pol.</i> 345 • Hart, James W. (2010) The European Human Rights System, 102, <i>Law Library Journal</i>, 533 • Nandy, Ashis (1990) The Politics of Secularism and the Recovery of Religious Tolerance in Veena Das, <i>Mirrors of Violence: Communities, Riots and Survivors in South Asia</i>, Oxford University Press, pp.70-93 • Piccone, Ted (2013), The Future of the United Nations Special Procedures, In S Sheeran and Sir N Rodley (eds) <i>Routledge Handbook of International Human Rights Law</i>, Routledge • Rehman Javid & Breau Susan C. (eds.) (2007) <i>Religion, Human Rights and International Law</i>, Leiden: Martinus Nijhoff	

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Course Title	Critical and Emerging Issues in the Asia Pacific (CEIR)		
Course Code	MHRD 9202	Notional Hours	150 hours
No. of Credits	03		Lectures, Discussions, Guided Reading, Independent Study
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	Core		
Course Description:			
This unit will be a team-taught module style unit that will expose students to some of the most critical issues of concern in the region. In particular, it will cover issues of development, human rights and the environment, the rights of indigenous peoples, cultural difference and the challenges of promoting human rights in societies where the rule of law, freedom of the press and civil society may not be strongly developed. This unit will ensure that broad debates about human rights are firmly grounded in the historical, political and cultural realities of the Asia Pacific region, paying particular attention to the legacies of colonisation and nation-building processes that have taken place in the region. Students will engage with new and emerging issues and the contestation of human rights that is taking place in their own region. The unit will also allow for students to explore the different meaning of human rights principles or the differing priorities within the body of human rights norms in this region and how this might require different types of approaches to those developed in the global north.			
Learning Objectives			
1. To provide students an overview of development and peace by using key topics to explore the different theoretical and conceptual perspectives that underpin the understanding of both concepts and practices. 2. To enable students to focus on a set of issues in development and peace. 3. To provide students with a broad understanding of different approaches to development and peace and their current applicability in the age of globalisation.			
Learning Outcomes			
1. Understanding of the normative (religious and cultural) frameworks in the region that can either underpin or undermine human rights principles; 2. Familiarity with debates about and challenges of working in culturally diverse contexts; 3. Understanding of the impact of colonialism, decolonisation and nation building processes on human rights; 4. Ability to analyse the relationship between deficits in democracy, processes of democratisation and human rights; 5. A strong understanding of the critical importance of socio-economic rights in the region and the challenges of advocating for this body of rights; 6. An understanding of the link between human rights and development discourses and			

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approaches in the region; 7. The ability to think about the relationship between environmental protection, sustainability and human rights; and 8. Familiarity with a selection of key issues of concern in the Asia Pacific region including labour migration, trafficking, media freedom, the rights of indigenous peoples, gender and the impact of multi-national corporations and international investment on human rights.	
Course Contents	Aligned Learning Outcomes
1. Cultural and religious contexts in the Asia Pacific and local normative backgrounds to conflicts with human rights	1,2
2. Human rights discourses in the context of post-colonialism and the challenges of nation-building	3
3. Democratisation and the relationship between democracy and human rights in the Asia Pacific context	4
4. Economic development, globalisation and human rights	5
5. Human rights based approaches to development	6
6. The role of IFIs and MNCs in human rights in the Asia Pacific	6
7. Environmental protection, development and human rights	7
8. Labour rights	8
9. Displacement, migration and trafficking	8
10. Rights relating to gender and sexuality	8
Methods of Teaching and Learning	
Lectures, Discussions, Case Studies and Guided Reading, Seminars	
Assessment Methods	
Assessment Method	Weight
Continuous assessments	70%
End semester examination	30%
- Alston, Philip (2005) Ships passing in the night; the current state of the human rights debate seen through the lens of the Millenium Development Goals, <i>Human Rights Quarterly</i> 27, pp. 755-829 - Uyangoda, Jayadeva (2013) Sri Lanka's State Reform Debate –Unitarism, Federalism, Decentralization and Devolution' in Jayadeva Uyangoda (ed.), <i>State Reform in Sri Lanka: Issues, Directions and Perspectives</i>, Social Scientists Association, p. 25-108 - Donnelly, Jack (1984) Cultural Relativism and Universal Human Rights, 6 <i>Human Rights Quarterly</i>, 400 - Kymlicka, W. (1999) 'Liberalism and Minority Rights, 12(2) <i>Ratio Juris</i> 133 - Nicholas, Lucy (2014) <i>Queer Post-Gender Ethics: The Shape of Selves to Come</i>,	

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Palgrave McMillan, UK

- Sen, Amartya (1997) *Human Rights and Asian Values*, Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs, New York
- Welikala, Asanga, (2015) 'Constitutional Form and Reform in Sri Lanka: Towards a Plurinational Understanding' in Mark Tushnet & Madhav Khosla (Eds.) *Unstable Constitutionalism: Law and Politics in South Asia*, Cambridge University Press, Chapter 11

Course Title	Dissertation / Internship Report		
Course Code	MHRD 9203	Notional Hours	600
No of Credits	12		Lectures, Class discussion, Tutorials, Self-learning, Guided readings, and related evaluation
Pre-requisites Course Codes	HRDR		
Course Type	Core		

Course Description:

Dissertation

Students opting for the Dissertation will be required to submit a Dissertation Proposal and a Final Dissertation.

The Dissertation Proposal will be developed under the supervision of the student's research supervisor during the second semester of the Master's Degree Programme. The Dissertation Proposal will be prepared according to the form prescribed from time to time by the Academic Committee of the Centre for the Study of Human Rights, and ratified by the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty Board. Once a student's research supervisor approves his/her Dissertation Proposal, he/she may conduct research as appropriate and write the Final Dissertation under the supervision of the research supervisor. A Final Dissertation will be not less than 15,000 words and not more than 18,000 words. The Final Dissertation will be according to the form prescribed from time to time by the Academic Committee of the Centre for the Study of Human Rights and ratified by the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty Board.

Internship Report

Students opting for the Internship will be required to complete an internship placement at a host institution working in the fields of human rights and/or democratisation, and submit the following;

1. Organisational Output (to the organisation)
2. Internship Reflections (to the CSHR)
3. Internship Research Report (to the CSHR)

Students opting for the Internship will be provided with an academic supervisor appointed by the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty Board, and an internship supervisor from the host institution.

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An Internship Placement at the host institution should be completed under the supervision of the internship supervisor. Students will be required to complete no less than 180 hours of work at the host institution. Students will be required to complete two tasks during the Internship Placement, which will be collectively referred to as the Organisational Output. First, students will be required to produce a Contribution to the Organisation. A Contribution will be something of value to the organisation, such as *inter alia* a research report, a media strategy, a workshop, a set of recommendations for the organisation, an evaluation of the organisation's work or some other product that is negotiated at the initial meeting between the student and the internship supervisor. As the product may not be written, but may be an action or a multi-media product, the size of the product should be 'equivalent' to a 6,000-8,000-word paper, indicating that it should be the result of approximately the same amount of work as negotiated by the student and internship supervisor at the initial meeting. Second, students are required to submit an Internship Reflection. This is a 3,000 word essay on the student's work in the organisation and how his/her experience related to the scholarly dimensions of his/her degree.

Students will also be required to submit an Internship Research Report, which is written under the supervision of the academic supervisor. This Report will be no less than 6,000 words and no more than 8,000 words. The Internship Research Report should take some aspect of the work that the student undertook or that was done by the organisation in which he/she interned and examine it from a scholarly perspective.

Learning Objectives

1. To demonstrate thorough understanding of theoretical and practical knowledge in research.
2. To be able to display critical awareness and analysis of a selected issue.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the Course, students will:

1. Able to demonstrate self-direction and originality in understanding issues of human rights and democracy.
2. Make sound judgments and communicate decisions clearly to others.
3. Be able to plan and implement tasks at sound academic level.

Course Contents	Aligned Learning Outcomes
1. Selection of suitable research topic / area of research	1
2. Presenting a proposal.	1,2
3. Producing the Dissertation / Internship Outputs	2,3
Assessment Methods: By two independent examiners approved by the Senate	
	Weight
Written work	100%

Approved by the Council

Meeting No 616

Date 18.01.2024

