

LAWS70171 Human Rights, Women and Development

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| Credit Points: | 12.5 |
| Level: | 7 (Graduate/Postgraduate) |
| Dates & Locations: | This subject is not offered in 2016. |
| Time Commitment: | Contact Hours: The total class time is between 24 and 26 hours. Total Time Commitment: The pre-teaching period commences four weeks before the scheduled subject start date. From this time, students are expected to access and review the Reading Guide that will be available from the LMS subject page and the subject materials provided by the subject coordinator, which will be available from Melbourne Law School. Refer to the Reading Guide for confirmation of which resources need to be read and what other preparation is required before the teaching period commences. |
| Prerequisites: | None |
| Corequisites: | None |
| Recommended Background Knowledge: | Applicants without legal qualifications should note that subjects are offered in the discipline of law at an advanced graduate level. While every effort will be made to meet the needs of students trained in other fields, concessions will not be made in the general level of instruction or assessment. Most subjects assume the knowledge usually acquired in a degree in law (LLB, JD or equivalent). Applicants should note that admission to some subjects in the Melbourne Law Masters will be dependent upon the individual applicant's educational background and professional experience. |
| Non Allowed Subjects: | None |
| Core Participation Requirements: | The Melbourne Law Masters welcomes applications from students with disabilities. The inherent academic requirements for study in the Melbourne Law Masters are: The ability to attend a minimum of 75% of classes and actively engage in the analysis and critique of complex materials and debate; The ability to read, analyse and comprehend complex written legal materials and complex interdisciplinary materials; The ability to clearly and independently communicate in writing a knowledge and application of legal principles and interdisciplinary materials and to critically evaluate these; The ability to clearly and independently communicate orally a knowledge and application of legal principles and interdisciplinary materials and critically evaluate these; The ability to work independently and as a part of a group; The ability to present orally and in writing legal analysis to a professional standard. Students who feel their disability will inhibit them from meeting these inherent academic requirements are encouraged to contact the Disability Liaison Unit: www.services.unimelb.edu.au/disability/ |
| Contact: | For more information: Email: law-masters@unimelb.edu.au (mailto:law-masters@unimelb.edu.au) Phone: +61 3 8344 6190 Website: www.law.unimelb.edu.au/masters (http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/masters) |
| Subject Overview: | <p>The fields of human rights and development have provided an important focus for the promotion of women's equality and empowerment in the United Nations (UN) era. Yet women's inequality has persisted. This subject will trace the history and examine the impact of the strategies adopted to promote women's equality in both fields and the links forged between them, as well as the tensions between these developments and the consolidation of the market-led development model. The limitations as well as the potential of law in promoting equality and social justice for women will be evaluated. Students will be challenged to consider how impediments might be overcome, including conceptual inadequacies relating to 'equality' and 'gender', gender bias in the law, fears of cultural imperialism and the failure to involve men in change strategies. The lecturer has an international reputation for combining a critical and practical engagement with issues of gender and the law.</p> <p>This subject will trace the history and examine the impact of the strategies adopted by advocates for women's equality in the fields of international human rights and development law and policy.</p> <p>Principal topics include:</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # The links between human rights and development strategies in improving women's economic and social status # The tensions between these strategies and the consolidation of the neoliberal development model # Impediments to the realisation of women's equality and how these might be overcome, including conceptual inadequacies, institutional marginalisation, gender bias in the law, the limits of legal liberalism, threat of cultural imperialism and lack of political will # The work of post-colonial feminists, including uncovering some of the hidden histories of women's resistance to colonial laws and policies # The limitations and potential of law in promoting women's equality and social justice. |
| Learning Outcomes: | <p>A student who has successfully completed this subject will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # An advanced and integrated understanding of the key international human rights instruments and development policies and programs that have sought to promote women's equality since 1945 # A critical and applied understanding the interrelationship between women's enjoyment of human rights and their equal participation in, and benefiting from, economic development # A sophisticated appreciation of the theoretical debates about how best to conceptualise sex/gender [in]equality, the different legal conceptions of sex/gender equality, and the problems associated with measuring and assessing substantive equality # Detailed knowledge and appreciation of the contributions by postcolonial legal scholars to understanding the diversity of women's experiences of inequality and the role played by customary and colonial laws as well as international economic institutions # The critical skills required to examine and assess the contributions of women's movements and nongovernmental organisations to advancing women's equality # The technical and communication skills to devise and implement strategies to promote women's advancement in the human rights and development fields and propose and analyse alternative approaches if required # A sophisticated understanding of the role of men in achieving gender equality # Demonstrable capacity to assess and effectively utilise the many international institutions and mechanisms that have a role to play in advancing women's equality. |
| Assessment: | Take-home examination (100%) (31 July - 3 August) or 10,000 word research paper (100%) (16 September) on a topic approved by the subject coordinator |
| Prescribed Texts: | Core subject materials will be provided free of charge to all students. Some subjects require further texts to be purchased. Details regarding any prescribed texts will be provided prior to the commencement of the subject. |
| Breadth Options: | This subject is not available as a breadth subject. |
| Fees Information: | Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees |
| Links to further information: | www.law.unimelb.edu.au/subject/LAWS70171/2015 |
| Notes: | This subject has a quota of 30 students. Please refer to the website www.law.unimelb.edu.au/masters/courses-and-subjects/subjects/subject-timing-and-format (http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/masters/courses-and-subjects/subjects/subject-timing-and-format) for further information about the management of subject quotas and waitlists. |
| Related Course(s): | <p>Graduate Diploma in Human Rights Law Graduate Diploma in International Law Graduate Diploma in Legal Studies Master of Human Rights Law Master of Law and Development Master of Laws Master of Public and International Law</p> |