

Course Outline

Course number	RBE344				
Course title	Business and Human Rights				
Credit points	3 ECTS (2 LV CP)				
Total hours	80				
Contact hours	32				
Independent studies	48				
Course level	Bachelor				
Prerequisites	Basic knowledge of public international law and human rights law				
Category	Mandatory		Restricted elective	x	Free elective

COURSE RESPONSIBLE

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Stefania Di Stefano	MA	Visiting lecturer

COURSE TEACHERS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Stefania Di Stefano	MA	Visiting lecturer

COURSE ABSTRACT

Over the past decades, debates about the role of corporations in human rights abuses and the role of international law for ensuring corporate accountability have gained prominent relevance at the international, regional and national level.

The aim of this course is to engage students with the topic of business and human rights. Taking as a starting point the ever-increasing role of corporations at the international level, the course will then delve into the historical evolution of the business and human rights field and offer an overview of the current mechanisms that exist at the national, regional, and international level, as well as the obstacles that they may present, for ensuring corporate accountability. The

course will also examine key issues in the field, including climate change, technology and the role of businesses in armed conflict.

The course will provide students with the opportunity to critically engage with, assess and evaluate the role of international law in ensuring corporate respect for human rights, the potential and shortcomings of the current system, but also address, at a more fundamental level, questions of normativity and interactions between different legal orders.

GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	Weighting
Group presentation	30%
Final take-home exam (2000 words)	50%
Class participation	20%

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Students are highly recommended to attend classes. Attendance and participation will affect their grade for the component "Class participation".
2. Students are expected to come prepared to the lectures by reading the required materials prior to each session and engage in the class discussions. Further readings are not compulsory, and they are made available for students who wish to further expand their knowledge on and engage more meaningfully with specific issues.
3. For online sessions, students are expected to turn their camera on. Failure to do so without a valid justification and approval by the module convenor will negatively impact the class participation component of the grading criteria.
4. Preparation for the classes and answering the questions will ensure that students are in a good position to apply the notions and concepts of business and human rights when preparing the group presentation and writing the final exam.
5. As far as group presentations are concerned, a list of topics will be shared at the beginning of the course. Students will be given the opportunity to choose three topics in order of preference and groups will be formed by the module convenor, trying to respect, as much as possible, the preferences expressed by the students.
6. If students feel unsure about something they should contact the module convenor in order to resolve the issue.
7. The final exam will be a take-home assignment. Students will be asked to write a text in legal blog-post style on a business and human rights topic of their choice. The word limit is 2000 words and students will have one week to complete the assignment. Further information on style will be shared in due course.
8. Students should respect the deadlines set for submitting their assignments. In the case that there are any extenuating circumstances that renders the submission of an

assignment difficult, or if students would like to ask for an extension, they should follow the procedures set out by the Riga Graduate School of Law.

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	<i>Main subjects</i>	<i>Planned hours</i>
1.	Introduction to the subject	4
2.	Transnational litigation	4
3.	International mechanisms	10
4.	Regional mechanisms	2
5.	Key issues	6
6.	Presentations and final debate	6