Unit Outline
HRIG6000 Human Rights Project Preparation
Semester 2, 2016

Unit study package code: HRIG6000
Mode of study: Fully Online
Tuition pattern summary: This unit does not have a fieldwork component.
Credit Value: 50.0
Pre-requisite units: Nil
Co-requisite units: Nil
Anti-requisite units: Nil
Result type: Grade/Mark
Approved incidental fees: Information about approved incidental fees can be obtained from our website. Visit fees.curtin.edu.au/incidental_fees.cfm for details.
Unit coordinator:
Title: Mrs
Name: Gaylene Galardi
Phone: +618 9266 3484
Email: G.Galardi@curtin.edu.au
Location: Building: 209 - Room: 425

Teaching Staff:
Name: Gaylene Galardi
Phone: +618 9266 3484
Email: g.galardi@curtin.edu.au
Location: Building: 209 - Room: 425

Administrative contact:
Name: Gaylene Galardi
Phone: +618 9266 3484
Email: G.Galardi@curtin.edu.au
Location: Building: 209 - Room: 425

Learning Management System: Blackboard (lms.curtin.edu.au)

Acknowledgement of Country
We respectfully acknowledge the Indigenous Elders, custodians, their descendants and kin of this land past and present.

Syllabus
Under the guidance of a supervisor this research unit is either practice-based or theory-based, depending on the interest of the student. A practice-based project involves an internship at a human rights organisation. A theory-based project involves preparation for a dissertation.
Introduction

Welcome to Human Rights Project Preparation. This unit outline is designed for students intending to complete either a dissertation or internship project for the Human Rights Project unit. Students intending to complete either a research or internship project should make an appointment via phone or email with the Unit Coordinator. For dissertation students, this unit will assist students to clarify their research topic and plan how to conduct the research and write the dissertation. For internship students, this unit will assist students to start thinking critically about engaging in human rights practice and their internship program. It will also assist students to develop the necessary research skills for Human Rights Project.

Successful completion of this unit will mean that the student has a clear understanding of their project designed and approved by the Centre.

Unit Learning Outcomes

All graduates of Curtin University achieve a set of nine graduate attributes during their course of study. These tell an employer that, through your studies, you have acquired discipline knowledge and a range of other skills and attributes which employers say would be useful in a professional setting. Each unit in your course addresses the graduate attributes through a clearly identified set of learning outcomes. They form a vital part in the process referred to as assurance of learning. The learning outcomes tell you what you are expected to know, understand or be able to do in order to be successful in this unit. Each assessment for this unit is carefully designed to test your achievement of one or more of the unit learning outcomes. On successfully completing all of the assessments you will have achieved all of these learning outcomes.

Your course has been designed so that on graduating we can say you will have achieved all of Curtin’s Graduate Attributes through the assurance of learning process in each unit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On successful completion of this unit students can:</th>
<th>Graduate Attributes addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Use appropriate technologies to locate and critically appraise relevant human rights literature or practice</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Synthesise a range of information to identify a human rights issue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Develop and communicate a human rights project plan</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Curtin’s Graduate Attributes

- **Apply discipline knowledge**
- **Thinking skills** (use analytical skills to solve problems)
- **Information skills** (confidence to investigate new ideas)
- **Communication skills**
- **Technology skills**
- **Learning how to learn** (apply principles learnt to new situations) (confidence to tackle unfamiliar problems)
- **International perspective** (value the perspectives of others)
- **Cultural understanding** (value the perspectives of others)
- **Professional Skills** (work independently and as a team) (plan own work)

Find out more about Curtin’s Graduate attributes at the Office of Teaching & Learning website: [ctl.curtin.edu.au](http://ctl.curtin.edu.au)

Learning Activities

Under the guidance of a supervisor this research unit leads into the Project unit which is either practice-based or theory-based, depending on the interest of the student. A practice-based project involves an internship at a human rights organisation and the completion of a written internship report. A theory-based project involves preparing and writing a dissertation. Students will be required to meet supervision requirements as negotiated with their supervisor. This unit will provide students with materials and assessments to prepare them for the commencement of their projects.

This unit is available in both internal and online modes.

As well as self determined study, this unit will include six (6) online only lectures of approximately 45 minutes each
and one introduction iLecture that can be accessed via Blackboard. The topics of these lectures are included in the Program Calendar at the end of this document.

Learning Resources

Recommended texts

You do not have to purchase the following textbooks but you may like to refer to them.


Online resources

Other resources

There is no recommended text for this unit, however, see the Program Calendar for recommended articles and book chapters for each lecture topic. Other books that may be useful for this unit are listed above.

There are also examples of dissertations and internship reports from past students available on Blackboard.

Assessment

Assessment schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Value %</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
<th>Unit Learning Outcome(s) Assessed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Literature Review or Essay</td>
<td>50 percent</td>
<td>Week: Week 4 (FT Students) Week 7 (PT Students) Day: Monday Time: 17:00</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Project Proposal or Essay</td>
<td>50 percent</td>
<td>Week: Week 6 (FT Students) Week 11 (PT Students) Day: Monday Time: 17:00</td>
<td>2,3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Detailed information on assessment tasks

1. Literature review – DISSERTATION Students
   
   Due: Monday 22 August (Full time students), Monday 12 September (Part time students)
   
   Length: 2000 words
   
   This assignment requires the student to critically review literature relevant to his/her own dissertation and produce a literature review in 2,000 words. This is a challenging and lengthy process that involves the following tasks:
   
   - conducting a wide search of the relevant literature on the subject matter;
   - critically analysing and systematically evaluating the body of knowledge through reflective thinking; and
   - highlighting the gaps in the literature (which should guide you when deciding what your research focus will be).
   
   For many of you, it will be the first time you have written a literature review. It is highly recommended that you undertake some reading about how to write a literature review. The following readings are very useful, as is the following libguide at Curtin University. [http://libguides.library.curtin.edu.au/content.php?pid=353064&sid=3354138](http://libguides.library.curtin.edu.au/content.php?pid=353064&sid=3354138)

   **Suggested readings:**
   
   What is research? Choosing your topic.
   

Critically reviewing the literature


**OR**

**Essay – INTERNSHIP Students**

**Due: Monday 22 August (Full time students), Monday 12 September (Part time students)**

**Length: 2000 words**

In your internship, you will be working within an organisation that works in the promotion, protection and/or realisation of human rights, in some shape or form. Challenges facing human rights practitioners vary depending on the type of organisation they are working in (for example, local non-government organisation (NGO), government department, international NGOs), the human rights issue/s that is the focus of their work, the type of work the organisation does (for example, advocacy, policy, field-work, campaign work), the socio-political context, one’s life experience and so on. Some challenges facing human rights practitioners can include (but are certainly not limited to):

- how to negotiate human rights principles and local cultural norms (particularly for international organisations);
- whether and how to collaborate with governments, non-government organisations and stakeholders;
- how to deal with tensions between expanding an organisation’s mission to address other human rights issues and restricting it for the sake of feasibility;
- how to raise the money required for the organisation without compromising or subverting the organisation’s overall aims;
- how to raise awareness about human rights concerns on behalf of vulnerable populations without reinforcing inequalities and power structures;
- how to navigate work-life challenges and emotional burnout; and
- how to deal with conflicts between one’s own values and an organisation’s aims and approach.

In a 2000 word essay, critically explore at least four challenges involved in human rights practice that resonate with you, by drawing on relevant academic literature. (Please note that the challenges are plentiful, so you do not have to focus just on those listed above).

**Suggested readings**


2. Project Proposal – DISSERTATION Students

Due: Monday 5 September (Full time students), Monday 10 October (Part time students)

Length: 2000 words
Your project proposal should constitute a summary and a plan of your proposed research, building on the work you have done in the first assignment.

Research Statement and Objectives
- Begin by clearly stating your research statement. If the research statement is well focused and conceived, it will generate your research objectives.
- Then, clearly state the objectives of the research – the small number of matters that need to be investigated in order to find an answer to your research question. No more than five should be necessary.

Background
- This should be the most substantial component of the plan as it includes a literature review.
- Explain the contexts for the proposed research, the circumstances that generate the research statement, and the theoretical/critical discussions that inform your investigation.
- Indicate a sense of the thoroughness of your literature review by citing relevant scholars/authors/texts as part of your discussion.
- Relate your proposed research to previous work in the area.

Significance
- This is a simple statement about the significance of your proposed research. For example, does it contribute to an established body of knowledge? Will it attempt to solve a problem that will be of use to practitioners in the field? Will it add to important debates in your discipline? List any likely benefits that may stem from your research.

Research Methodology
- Your research methodology will be dependent upon your research topic and the approach you decide to take. If you wish to engage in a theoretical discussion of a particular topic, drawing upon the relevant academic literature, examples from the media, legal cases, etc. Discuss your methodology with your supervisor.

Reference List
- Use key references – critical texts in the field, refereed articles, substantive review papers, etc.
- Present your references in a recognised bibliographic style.

Suggested readings

Writing a dissertation – constructing an argument


Types of research – qualitative and quantitative


OR

Essay – INTERNSHIP Students
Due: Monday 5 September (Full time students), Monday 10 October (Part time students)

**Length: 2000 words**

Explore any relevant academic literature and reports written about your chosen internship organisation or the type of work that your organisation does (for example, campaign work, lobbying, advocacy, and/or fieldwork). Critically reflect on issues that the literature raises and how you will respond to, or are responding to, these in your internship.

**Pass requirements**

**Assignments.** All assignments must be submitted on time to satisfy unit requirements. Requests for extensions must be made to the Unit Coordinator **BEFORE** the due date of the assignment. An assignment more than 7 days overdue without an extension request will not be marked. **Please also see Late Assessment Policy.**

**Fair assessment through moderation**

Moderation describes a quality assurance process to ensure that assessments are appropriate to the learning outcomes, and that student work is evaluated consistently by assessors. Minimum standards for the moderation of assessment are described in the Assessment and Student Progression Manual, available from [policies.curtin.edu.au/policies/teachingandlearning.cfm](http://policies.curtin.edu.au/policies/teachingandlearning.cfm)

**Late assessment policy**

This ensures that the requirements for submission of assignments and other work to be assessed are fair, transparent, equitable, and that penalties are consistently applied.

1. All assessments students are required to submit will have a due date and time specified on this Unit Outline.
2. Students will be penalised by a deduction of ten percent per calendar day for a late assessment submission (eg a mark equivalent to 10% of the total allocated for the assessment will be deducted from the marked value for every day that the assessment is late). This means that an assessment worth 20 marks will have two marks deducted per calendar day late. Hence if it was handed in three calendar days late and given a mark of 16/20, the student would receive 10/20. An assessment **more than seven calendar days overdue will not be marked and will receive a mark of 0.**

**Assessment extension**

A student unable to complete an assessment task by/on the original published date/time (eg examinations, tests) or due date/time (eg assignments) must apply for an assessment extension using the Assessment Extension form (available from the Forms page at [students.curtin.edu.au/administration/](http://students.curtin.edu.au/administration/)) as prescribed by the Academic Registrar. It is the responsibility of the student to demonstrate and provide evidence for exceptional circumstances beyond the student’s control that prevent them from completing/submitting the assessment task.

The student will be expected to lodge the form and supporting documentation with the unit coordinator before the assessment date/time or due date/time. An application may be accepted up to five working days after the date or due date of the assessment task where the student is able to provide an acceptable explanation as to why he or she was not able to submit the application prior to the assessment date. An application for an assessment extension will not be accepted after the date of the Board of Examiners’ meeting.

**Deferred assessments**

If your results show that you have been granted a deferred assessment you should immediately check OASIS for details.

**Supplementary assessments**

Supplementary assessments are not available in this unit.
Reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities/health circumstances likely to impact on studies

A Curtin Access Plan (CAP) is a document that outlines the type and level of support required by a student with a disability or health condition to have equitable access to their studies at Curtin. This support can include alternative exam or test arrangements, study materials in accessible formats, access to Curtin's facilities and services or other support as discussed with an advisor from Disability Services (disability.curtin.edu.au). Documentation is required from your treating Health Professional to confirm your health circumstances.

If you think you may be eligible for a CAP, please contact Disability Services. If you already have a CAP please provide it to the Unit Coordinator at the beginning of each semester.

Referencing style

The referencing style for this unit is up to the student. Check the library guides on referencing for assistance. You can use any style, but please be consistent when using a particular style.

More information on this referencing style can be obtained at http://libguides.library.curtin.edu.au/content.php?pid=141214

Copyright

© Curtin University. The course material for this unit is provided to you for your own research and study only. It is subject to copyright. It is a copyright infringement to make this material available on third party websites.

Academic Integrity (including plagiarism and cheating)

Any conduct by a student that is dishonest or unfair in connection with any academic work is considered to be academic misconduct. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offences that will be investigated and may result in penalties such as reduced or zero grades, annulled units or even termination from the course.

Plagiarism occurs when work or property of another person is presented as one's own, without appropriate acknowledgement or referencing. Submitting work which has been produced by someone else (e.g. allowing or contracting another person to do the work for which you claim authorship) is also plagiarism. Submitted work is subjected to a plagiarism detection process, which may include the use of text matching systems or interviews with students to determine authorship.

Cheating includes (but is not limited to) asking or paying someone to complete an assessment task for you or any use of unauthorised materials or assistance during an examination or test.

From Semester 1, 2016, all incoming coursework students are required to complete Curtin's Academic Integrity Program (AIP). If a student does not pass the program by the end of their first study period of enrolment at Curtin, their marks will be withheld until they pass. More information about the AIP can be found at: https://academicintegrity.curtin.edu.au/students/AIP.cfm

Refer to the Academic Integrity tab in Blackboard or academicintegrity.curtin.edu.au for more information, including student guidelines for avoiding plagiarism.
Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Expectations

Curtin students are expected to have reliable internet access in order to connect to OASIS email and learning systems such as Blackboard and Library Services.

You may also require a computer or mobile device for preparing and submitting your work.

For general ICT assistance, in the first instance please contact OASIS Student Support:

oasisapps.curtin.edu.au/help/general/support.cfm

For specific assistance with any of the items listed below, please contact The Learning Centre:

life.curtin.edu.au/learning-support/learning_centre.htm

- Using Blackboard, the I Drive and Back-Up files
- Introduction to PowerPoint, Word and Excel

Additional information

Enrolment

It is your responsibility to ensure that your enrolment is correct - you can check your enrolment through the eStudent option on OASIS, where you can also print an Enrolment Advice.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of every student to be aware of all relevant legislation, policies and procedures relating to their rights and responsibilities as a student. These include:

- the Student Charter
- the University's Guiding Ethical Principles
- the University’s policy and statements on plagiarism and academic integrity
- copyright principles and responsibilities
- the University’s policies on appropriate use of software and computer facilities

Information on all these things is available through the University's "Student Rights and Responsibilities" website at:
sstudents.curtin.edu.au/rights.

Student Equity

There are a number of factors that might disadvantage some students from participating in their studies or assessments to the best of their ability, under standard conditions. These factors may include a disability or medical condition (e.g. mental illness, chronic illness, physical or sensory disability, learning disability), significant family responsibilities, pregnancy, religious practices, living in a remote location or another reason. If you believe you may be unfairly disadvantaged on these or other grounds please contact Student Equity at eesi@curtin.edu.au or go to http://eesj.curtin.edu.au/student_equity/index.cfm for more information.

You can also contact Counselling and Disability services: http://www.disability.curtin.edu.au or the Multi-faith services: http://life.curtin.edu.au/health-and-wellbeing/about_multifaith_services.htm for further information.

It is important to note that the staff of the university may not be able to meet your needs if they are not informed of your individual circumstances so please get in touch with the appropriate service if you require assistance. For general wellbeing concerns or advice please contact Curtin's Student Wellbeing Advisory Service at:

Recent unit changes

Students are encouraged to provide unit feedback through eVALUate, Curtin's online student feedback system. For more information about eVALUate, please refer to evaluate.curtin.edu.au/info/.

To view previous student feedback about this unit, search for the Unit Summary Report at https://evaluate.curtin.edu.au/student/unit_search.cfm. See https://evaluate.curtin.edu.au/info/dates.cfm to find out when you can eVALUate this unit.

Recent changes to this unit include:

-
**Program calendar**  
**Semester 2, 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Begin Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings and Resources</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>25 July</td>
<td>Orientation Week</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1 August</td>
<td><strong>Introduction and Overview</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 2. | 8 August | What is research? Choosing your topic. Writing a research/internship abstract – questions and objectives  
| 3. | 15 August | Critically reviewing the literature: Importance for the internship report/dissertation  
| 4. | 22 August | Writing a dissertation – constructing an argument  
Part 1: Dr Lisa Hartley  
Part 2: Eileen Clements (former CHRE masters dissertation student)  
| 5. | 29 August | Non-teaching week |  |
| 6. | 5 September | Writing a project proposal for a dissertation  
| 7. | 12 September | Preparing for an internship. Writing an internship report  
<p>| 8. | 19 September | Non-teaching week |  |
| 9. | 26 | Including creative works in your dissertation/internship |  |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Note</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>3 October</td>
<td>Assignment 2 due - part time students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>10 October</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>17 October</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>24 October</td>
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<td>14.</td>
<td>31 October</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>7 November</td>
<td>Study Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>14 November</td>
<td>Examinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>21 November</td>
<td>Examinations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>