

a. **Course Code:**

GPP-833

b. **Title:**

Business and Human Rights

Prerequisite:

Nil

c. **Credit Hours:** 3.0

d. **Learning Objectives:**

- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the nature and scope of business' human rights Responsibilities in the light of existing and emerging international human rights law, standards and norms.
- Identify the broad substantive legal principles, arguments, critiques and procedural tools used to advance CSR and human rights in the business world.
- Analyse the broader social, economic, and political contexts in which issues in the field of business and human rights arise.
- Appraise the ethical issues and dilemmas faced by corporations confronted with human rights issues.
- Apply the knowledge and skills gained from participation in the course to a professional context by evaluating the legal and reputational risk arising from potential human rights violations posed by business operations, and designing business strategies, which address human rights issues

e. **Contents with suggested contact hours:**

Format for a weekly breakdown of lectures is presented in the following table:

Week	Lecture Topics
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Introduction to the Course and Key Resources – Setting the Standard – What are Human Rights?
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Human Rights Enforcement Mechanism – The UN Human Rights Council – The Regional Enforcement – The extraterritorial application of Human Rights
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Case for Business and Human Rights. – Defining “Corporate Social Responsibility” (CSR) and “Business and Human Rights” (BHR) – The Role of Business in Society – The Extension of Human Rights Obligations to Multinational Enterprises (MNEs).
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Accountability of Business Entities – Leading Cases in BHR.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Corporate Compliance with Human Rights Responsibilities – UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Linking Corporate Social Responsibility, Human Rights and Business Strategy
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Initiatives intended to Bridge Global Governance Gaps. – Critiques and Implementation of the UN Guiding Principles
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Multi-stakeholder initiatives and UNGPs. – Private governance and human rights: understanding the limitations and opportunities of multi-stakeholder initiatives for the advancement of the Business and Human Rights agenda
9	Mid Term Exam (MTE)
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Human Rights at the Workplace – International Labour Rights and Standards – Supply Chain Management

	– Modern Slavery, Child Labour, Sweatshops and Human Trafficking
11	– The Environment, Business and Human Rights – The Extractive Industries
12	– Conducting Business in Conflict Zone – Corporate Accountability in Conflict Zones – Paramilitary and Security Companies
13	– Global Challenges in Technology, Freedom of Expression and Privacy
14	– Investment Contracts and Human Rights – Addressing Environmental Issues through Investment Contracts
15	– Challenges for the Developing Countries – Access to Remedies
16	– Pakistan’s National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights – A way forward? –
17	– Term-Papers presentations. – Course Recap: Q&A
18	Final Term Exam (FTM)

g. **Details of lab work, workshops practice:**

No lab is required. Industrial visit(s) will be arranged to orientate students with the working of the concerned national/intl. bodies.

h. **Recommended Reading:**

Core:

- Nadia Bernaz, Business and Human Rights (2019)
- D. Baumann-Pauly and Justine Nolan (eds.), Business and Human Rights from Principles to Practise (2016)
- J. Ruggie, Just Business: Multinational Corporations and Human Rights (2013)
- M. Mohan and C. Morel (eds.), Business and Human Rights in Southeast Asia (2015)

- Miriam Saage-Maas, Peter Zumbansen, Michael Bader, Palvasha Shahab (eds.) Transnational Legal Activism in Global Supply Chains (2021).

Helpful Links:

- Business & Human Rights in Law (www.bhrinlaw.org)
- Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (www.business-humanrights.org)
- Cambridge Business and Human Rights Journal (www.cambridge.org/core/journals/businessand-human-rights-journal)
- Corporate Social Responsibility and the Law Blog (Foley Hoag LLP) (www.csrandthelaw.com)
- Global Business Initiative on Human Rights (www.global-business-initiative.org/)
- Human Rights and Business Country Guide (Danish Institute) (hrbcountryguide.org)
- Human Rights and Business Dilemmas Forum (<https://hrbdf.org/>)
- Institute for Human Rights and Business (www.ihrb.org)
- UN Global Compact (www.unglobalcompact.org)
- UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights (Materials) (businesshumanrights.org/en/working-group/latest-news-on-unwg)