

Conceptual Foundations of Human Rights (LAW 358)

Credit Hours: 4

Course Pre-Requisites: Not Applicable

Instructor: Raza Saeed

Schedule: Monday to Friday (3 – 5.50 PM)

Course Description: Are human rights universal or do they depend on cultural values? What is the interplay between human rights law, political theory and international relations? What is the source of our individual obligations? This module will look at these foundational and fundamental questions, among many others. It takes an interdisciplinary approach to human rights rather than a purely legalistic one. By engaging with perspectives from politics, history, philosophy and sociology, the course will take a contextual approach to engage with key human rights issues. The course will enrich theoretical discussions with the help of topical case studies, and will encourage students to think critically and situate the institutions, instruments, practices, debates and theories of human rights within their wider socioeconomic, political and global setting