

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2024

Applying human rights principles to selected rights of sexual minorities in Africa 806 (HRA 806)

Qualification	Postgraduate
Faculty	Faculty of Law
Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	09
Programmes	LLM (Human Rights) <i>Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Africa</i> (Coursework) MPhil (Human Rights) <i>Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Africa</i> (Coursework)
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	30 contact hours per semester
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Centre for Human Rights
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

The focus of this module is on the application of human rights principles to selected issues affecting sexual minorities in Africa, with a view to developing human rights responses to related contemporary challenges in the African region. Topics include:

- Providing a critical understanding of the concepts 'sexual orientation' and 'gender identity', 'homosexual', 'bisexual', 'gay', 'lesbian', 'transgender', 'intersex', 'sexual minority', 'heterosexism', and 'queer'
- Understanding theories on the psychology, biology and sociobiology of homosexuality
- Investigating the global history of homosexuality, particularly in the 'West' (USA and Britain) and its influence on Africa
- Investigating the evolution of homosexuality and society in Africa, including an anthropological review of homosexuality in traditional African societies, and under colonialism and in post-colonial Africa
- Understanding the nature of the violation of rights of 'sexual minorities' including violations to the rights to health; discrimination based on actual or presumed sexual orientation, gender identity and HIV status; sexual and other forms of violence; violations of the right to privacy; stigmatisation and its consequences) particularly by states and non-state actors in Africa
- Understanding the reasons for rights violations and homophobia in Africa by investigating the role of culture/tradition, religion and majoritarianism
- Considering the role of public policy, by focusing on the need and possibilities for legal reform, and strategies to sensitise communities for the rights of sexual minorities and change homophobic attitudes

General Academic Regulations and Student Rules

The [General Academic Regulations \(G Regulations\)](#) and [General Student Rules](#) apply to all faculties and registered students of the University, as well as all prospective students who have accepted an offer of a place at the University of Pretoria. On registering for a programme, the student bears the responsibility of ensuring that they familiarise themselves with the General Academic Regulations applicable to their registration, as well as the relevant faculty-specific and programme-specific regulations and information as stipulated in the relevant yearbook. Ignorance concerning these regulations will not be accepted as an excuse for any transgression, or basis for an exception to any of the aforementioned regulations. The G Regulations are updated annually and may be amended after the publication of this information.

Regulations, degree requirements and information

The faculty regulations, information on and requirements for the degrees published here are subject to change and may be amended after the publication of this information.

University of Pretoria Programme Qualification Mix (PQM) verification project

The higher education sector has undergone an extensive alignment to the Higher Education Qualification Sub-Framework (HEQSF) across all institutions in South Africa. In order to comply with the HEQSF, all institutions are legally required to participate in a national initiative led by regulatory bodies such as the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Council on Higher Education (CHE), and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). The University of Pretoria is presently engaged in an ongoing effort to align its qualifications and programmes with the HEQSF criteria. Current and prospective students should take note that changes to UP qualification and programme names, may occur as a result of the HEQSF initiative. Students are advised to contact their faculties if they have any questions.