

Instructions for the Book Review

One assignment for this course is the completion of a book review of about 1,200 words, which will make up 15% of your final grade. It will have to be handed by **Thursday, 23 February at 11:00**, with each day (or part thereof) of delay resulting in a reduction of 10 % of the grade you receive.

Choosing a Book

You can write the review on any human rights-related book of your choice. It is usually recommended to pick a relatively recent one as you will otherwise have to deal with a larger number of subsequent reviews and publications on the same subject, which makes the task of writing an informed and original appraisal more complicated. Reviewing a single-authored monograph as opposed to an edited volume (with multiple authors) is also preferable. Here a few suggestions of recent relevant works:

Shreya Atrey, *Intersectional Discrimination*, Oxford University Press (2019)
Fareeda Banda, *African Migration, Human Rights and Literature*, Hart (2022)
Gauthier de Beco, *Disability in International Human Rights Law*, Oxford University Press (2021)
Gráinne de Búrca, *Reframing Human Rights in a Turbulent Era*, Oxford University Press (2021)
Eduardo Arenas Catalán, *The Human Right to Health*, Edward Elgar (2021)
Julie Fraser, *Social Institutions and International Human Rights Law Implementation*, CUP (2020)
Erika George, *Incorporating Rights: Strategies to Advance Corporate Accountability*, OUP (2021)
Giovanni De Gregorio, *Digital Constitutionalism in Europe*, Cambridge University Press (2022)
Angela Hefti, *Conceptualizing Femicide as a Human Rights Violation*, Edward Elgar (2022)
Corina Heri, *Responsive Human Rights: Vulnerability and the ECtHR*, Hart (2021)
Sumi Madhok, *Vernacular Rights Cultures*, Cambridge University Press (2021)
Michael Reiertsen, *Effective Domestic Remedies and the European Court of Human Rights*, CUP (2022)
Amanda Spalding, *The Treatment of Immigrants in the European Court of Human Rights*, Hart (2022)
Surya P. Subedi, *Human Rights in Eastern Civilisations*, Edward Elgar (2021)
Dina Lupin Townsend, *Human Dignity and the Adjudication of Environmental Rights*, Edward Elgar (2020)

You can find many more options in the human rights sections of publishing houses such as [Cambridge University Press](#), [Edward Elgar](#), [Harvard University Press](#) and [Oxford University Press](#).

Note: Please send a brief email to m.baumgartel@ucr.nl requesting approval of your book of choice.

Writing a Review

Reviewing a book is a very useful academic skill that can help young researchers and even students get exposure in academic journals as these are always looking for good reviews. On the Internet you can find a number of excellent guidelines on how to write them, for example by the [Writing Centre of the University of North Carolina](#) at Chapel Hill or a more advanced one by [Professor Wendy Belcher](#) of Princeton University.

At UCR, you can approach Christine Leedy (c.leedy@ucr.nl) of the Study Skills Centre, who is always happy to offer helpful and patient guidance. Two excellent reviews written by students in previous courses can also be found on Moodle.

Note: The instructor will *not* give feedback on drafts.

Evaluation

The book review will be graded using the following assessment criteria:

	Sufficient (60%)	Good (70%)	Excellent (> 80%)
Summary (25%)	The review offers a correct and understandable summary of the contents of the book. It mentions its purpose and overall argument.	The review offers a correct and informative summary of the contents of the book. It describes its purpose and overall argument.	The review offers a correct, concise and informative summary of the contents of the book. It describes its purpose and overall argument in relation to current debates in the field.
Analysis (30%)	The analysis identifies some of the relevant strengths and weaknesses of the book. It formulates an opinion on its overall quality and merits.	The analysis identifies and discusses some of the relevant strengths and weaknesses of the book. It formulates a clear opinion on its overall quality and merits.	The analysis convincingly identifies and discusses the most relevant strengths and weaknesses of the book. It formulates a well-reasoned opinion on its overall quality and merits.
Structure (20%)	The line of thought is mostly clear. The structure does not inhibit the legibility of text.	The line of thought is mostly clear. The structure supports legibility of text.	The line of thought is easy to follow and fully supported by the structure.
Language and Style (25%)	Grammar and style enable understanding of information. The text features only few spelling or grammar mistakes.	Grammar and style enable understanding of information. No errors can be detected by spellcheckers.	Grammar and style support the legibility of the document. The language used is correct and marked by conciseness.