Thema Project: Initial Survey for Online Students

About this survey

Welcome! Thank you for agreeing to take part in the Thema project and to share with us your experience of studying on the International Human Rights Law course. This is the first of the two surveys that we would like you to complete. It asks you to tell us about yourself, your reasons for choosing the course and what you hope to gain from it. It also enquires into your use of digital technologies: computers, mobile phones, MP3 players and digital cameras, together with the programs and Websites that run on them.

The questions are divided into four sections (pages). Some require you to tick the response(s) closest to your opinion; others ask you to express your own thoughts. Questions marked * require an answer. If you leave any of these blank and click "Next Page," the current page will be redisplayed with a message in red above the unanswered question.

The survey should take you approximately 30 minutes to complete. However, if you don't have the time to do the whole survey right now, then exit without answering any questions and come back later. If you have any problems completing the survey itself, then do contact me at the email address below.

To start, click the "Next Page" button at the foot of this window.

When you have finished, click the "Finish" button after the final question. (NB Don't click the Cancel message or close this browser window as your responses may be lost.)

Please complete the survey by Friday, 22nd February.

Thank you,

Liz Masterman, Thema Project Manager
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A: About you...

In this section we would like you to tell us about yourself:

* 1. Your name

[   ]

* 2. Please give the email address which you would like us to use when we contact you

[   ]

* 3. Your age

- ϳ∩ 18-21
- ϳ∩ 22-24
- ϳ∩ 25-34
- ϳ∩ 35-54
- ϳ∩ 55 or over

* 4. Your gender

- ϳ∩ Male
- ϳ∩ Female

5. If you have done a degree before, where did you study?

- ϳ∩ Oxford University
- ϳ∩ Another university or college. Please give its name (and country, if outside the UK):

[   ]

6. If you have done a degree before, what was your main subject of study (i.e. your "major")?

[   ]

* 7. Did you have a gap in your studies before you started this course?
For example, you may have returned to studying after several years in a job or raising a family.

- ϳ∩ No gap
- ϳ∩ 1 to 2 years
- ϳ∩ 3 to 5 years
- ϳ∩ 6 to 10 years
- ϳ∩ More than 10 years

If you have had a gap in your studies, please tell us briefly what you have been doing. If you have worked, what types of jobs have you had?

[   ]

* 8. Do you have work or other responsibilities as well as your studies? Tick all the statements that apply to you.

For example, you may work more than 20 hours a week and have children to look after.

- ☐ I have a paid job and work 10 hours or less per week
- ☐ I have a paid job and work between 10 and 30 hours per week
- ☐ I have a paid job and work more than 30 hours per week
- ☐ I have children and/or other dependants to look after
- ☐ I have no other responsibilities
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 9. Is English your native language?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

* 10. Where are you living while you are studying on this course?

- ○ In or near Oxford (i.e. within 25 miles of the city centre)
- ○ Elsewhere in the UK
- ○ Outside the UK. Please say which country:

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B. About your studies

Here we would like you to tell us about your plans and hopes regarding your course.

* 11. What motivated you to study International Human Rights Law?

* 12. What were your reasons for choosing to study the subject through this online course at Oxford University?

13. Do you have any idea yet what you want to do after the course?
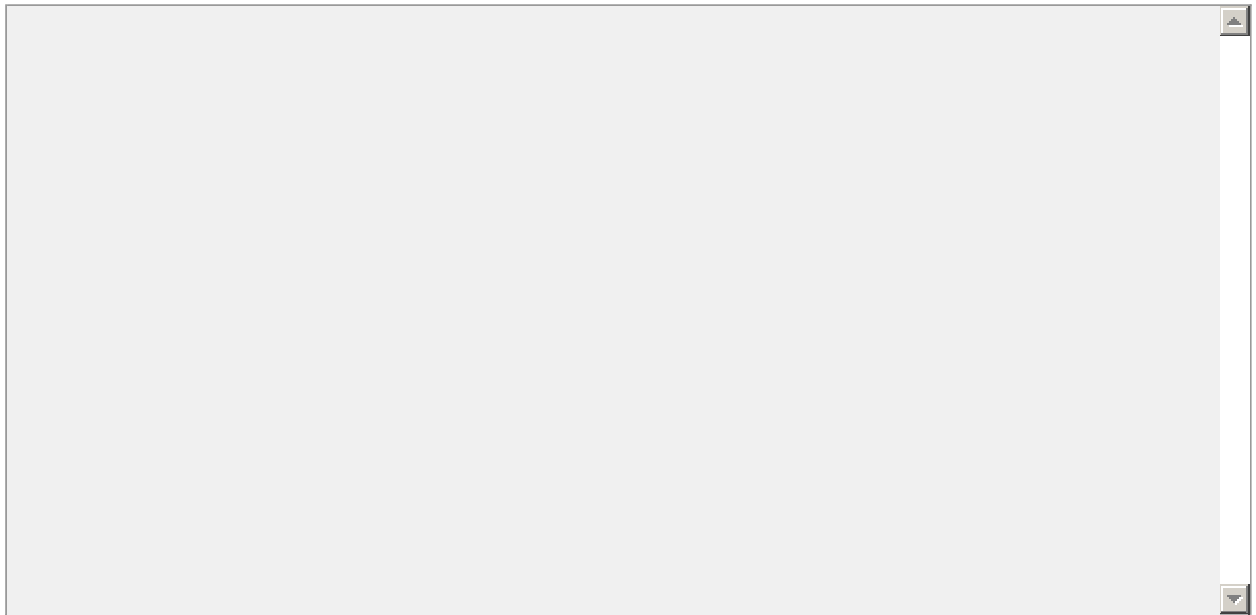*(e.g. study for a doctorate, take up a specific career)*

* 14. Roughly how many hours a week do you expect to spend studying the distance-taught parts of the course?

15. How do you plan to fit your studies around your work and/or home life?
(e.g. study during the lunch-hour/when the children are at school; read while commuting to and from work)

16. Looking back over your previous studies, can you tell us about one significant learning experience that has stayed in your mind? Here are some prompts to help you:

- Was it a recent experience or did it happen long ago?
- Did it happen during your formal school/college education, or outside ("informal" learning)?
- Was it a single lesson or series of lessons on a particular subject?
- What made it special: the subject-matter; the teacher; a particular piece of technology; the sense of achievement you felt on acquiring a new skill or understanding a difficult concept...?

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C. Your use of technology

The questions in this section ask about your use of computers and other digital technologies, both in your studies and in general:

* 17. How many of the digital technologies listed below do you own at the moment? Tick as many boxes as you need.

- Desktop computer
- Laptop or tablet computer
- Mobile phone
- iPod or MP3/MP4 player (also tick this box if your mobile phone has one)
- Personal digital assistant (PDA) or handheld computer e.g. iPAQ (also tick this box if your mobile phone has PDA-like functions)
- Digital camera and/or digital video-camera
- Webcam
- Other. Please tell us what else you use:

18. Do you use any special hardware or software ("assistive technology") because of problems with your sight, hearing, mobility, ability to use a keyboard and/or mouse, or because of any other issues (e.g. dyslexia)?

These are often referred to as "accessibility" issues.

- Yes
- No

If you answered "Yes," what special equipment and/or programs do you use?

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* 19. How well can you use the following programs?

	By myself (using help or a manual if necessary)	Need help from someone who can do it already	Never used
Word processor (e.g. Word, to write an essay or report with subheadings and page numbers)	jn	jn	jn
Spreadsheet (e.g. Excel, to design a new sheet & enter simple numerical data)	jn	jn	jn
Database (e.g. Access, to create a new database of your own with simple text entries)	jn	jn	jn
Graphics program (e.g. Photoshop, to crop an image or convert it from colour to B&W)	jn	jn	jn
Web authoring tool (e.g. FrontPage or Dreamweaver, to create a personal webpage)	jn	jn	jn
Presentation tool (e.g. Powerpoint, to create a short talk with slides)	jn	jn	jn
Chat program (e.g. MSN Messenger, to communicate with someone over the Web)	jn	jn	jn
Search engine (e.g. Google, to find websites related to a particular theme or keyword)	jn	jn	jn

* 20. How confident do you feel about using the tools and technologies that are required in your course?

jn Very confident

jn Fairly confident

jn Not very confident

jn Not at all confident

jn It's difficult to say

Would you like to say more in response to this question?

* 21. Suppose that you need to use an online tool or a computer program in your job that you haven't used before. Here are three ways in which you might learn how to use it. Please indicate on the scale how likely you are to try each one:

	Very likely	Quite likely	Not sure	Not very likely	Very unlikely	Not applicable to me
Try to learn to use it by myself, perhaps using a help system or manual	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Get together with a friend or colleague, perhaps using a help system or manual	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Contact my organisation's IT support department for help	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Rely on my employer to arrange a training course for me	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn

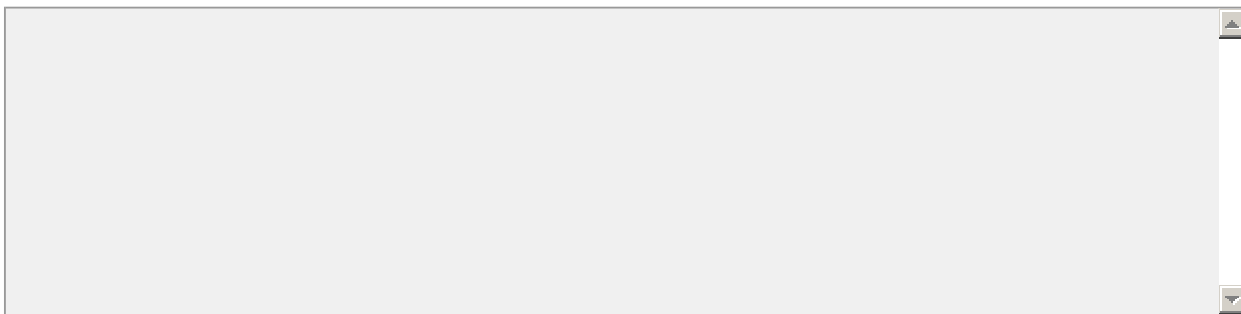Would you like to comment on the responses you have given to this question?

* 22. Have you taken a distance-learning course before? If so, could you tell us something about your experiences?
By distance-learning we mean traditional "correspondence courses" in which you communicated with your tutor by mail or telephone, as well as online courses like this one.

Questions 23 and 24 are only relevant if you have taken a distance-learning course before, or if you would like to express your opinions on the strength of your experience of this course so far. Otherwise, just click "Next page" at the foot of this screen to move on to the final section of the survey.

23. What have you found to be the strengths of distance-learning in general, and of online learning in particular?

24. And what have you found to be the shortcomings of studying this way?

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D. "Social software"

We are also investigating students' use of "social software" or "Web 2.0 tools:" i.e. Websites that are characterised by user-generated content and often involve collaboration and sharing.

In this final section of the survey, we ask you to indicate how familiar you are with different types of social software.

* **25. Websites for storing photographs, images and/or videos and sharing them with other people, e.g. Flickr, YouTube:**

   jn I have put my own materials on such sites

   jn I have looked at other people's material on this sort of site but haven't added any of my own

   jn I have heard of such sites but have never used one

   jn I do not know what these sites are

   Do you have any comments about Flickr, YouTube and similar sites?

* **26. Podcasts (incl. video podcasts):**

   jn I have listened to podcasts (e.g. for studies, work or general interest)

   jn I have heard of podcasts but have never listened to one

   jn I do not know what podcasts are

   If you have listened to podcasts, please give brief details here:

* **27. Wikipedia and other online encyclopaedias to which anyone can contribute information:**

   jn I have looked up information in Wikipedia or other online encyclopaedias

   jn I have heard of Wikipedia but have not used it

   jn I do not know what Wikipedia is

   Do you have any comments about Wikipedia?

* 28. Wikis (<u>excluding</u> Wikipedia and similar online encyclopaedias):

- jn I have contributed to a wiki (e.g. for studies, work or other purposes)
- jn I have heard of wikis but have not used one
- jn I do not know what a wiki is

If you have contributed to a wiki, please give brief details here:

* 29. Blogs (online journals) written by other people:

- jn I read other people's blogs and add comments if I have something to say
- jn I read other people's blogs but don't add any comments
- jn I have heard of blogs but have never read one
- jn I do not know what blogs are

Do you have any comments about blogs and blogging?

* 30. Do you have your own blog?

- jn Yes, I write in it regularly and respond to the comments that people make
- jn I have started a blog but I don't write in it very much
- jn I did have my own blog but have stopped writing in it
- jn I have never had my own blog

If you currently have your own blog, can you tell us briefly about it? Include the URL if you're willing to let us read it.

* 31. Social networking sites e.g. MySpace, Facebook:

- jn I have an account (profile) and use it regularly
- jn I have an account (profile) but don't use it very much
- jn I have heard about this sort of site but have never used one
- jn I do not know what social networking sites are

Do you have any comments about social networking sites?

* 32. Social bookmarking tools e.g. del.icio.us, Furl:

ᴊᶯ I currently use one <u>or</u> have used one in the past

ᴊᶯ I have heard of social bookmarking tools but have never used one

ᴊᶯ I do not know what social bookmarking tools are

Do you have any comments about social bookmarking?

* 33. Online calendar e.g. Google Calendar, iCal, Yahoo Calendar:

ᴊᶯ I currently use one <u>or</u> have used one in the past

ᴊᶯ I have heard of online calendars but have never used one

ᴊᶯ I do not know what online calendars are

Do you have any comments about online calendars?

* 34. Newsfeeds (RSS) which can be read on Websites, through a browser and/or through an aggregator (e.g. Bloglines, Google Reader):

ᴊᶯ I currently read newsfeeds <u>or</u> have read them in the past

ᴊᶯ I have heard of newsfeeds but I don't read them

ᴊᶯ I do not know what newsfeeds are

Do you have any comments about newsfeeds?

* 35. Communication tools:

	Yes, I use this regularly	Yes, I use this but not very often	I have heard of this but have never used it	I do not know what this is
Internet telephony (VOIP): e.g. Skype, Ventrilo	ᴊᶯ	ᴊᶯ	ᴊᶯ	ᴊᶯ
Chat or instant messaging: e.g. MSN Messenger, Google Talk	ᴊᶯ	ᴊᶯ	ᴊᶯ	ᴊᶯ
Discussion forum	ᴊᶯ	ᴊᶯ	ᴊᶯ	ᴊᶯ
Newsgroup	ᴊᶯ	ᴊᶯ	ᴊᶯ	ᴊᶯ

Do you have any comments about any of these communication tools?

* 36. Virtual worlds e.g. Second Life, There

- jn I regularly spend time in a virtual world
- jn I have created my own avatar but don't spend much time in the virtual world
- jn I did have an avatar but have stopped using the virtual world
- jn I have heard of virtual worlds but have never been in one
- jn I do not know what a virtual world is

Do you have any comments about Second Life and similar virtual worlds?

* 37. Multiplayer online games that you play over the Internet with other people: e.g. EverQuest, Eve, chess

- jn I regularly play at least one such game
- jn I have tried playing them but I don't play regularly
- jn I did play such games but have stopped
- jn I have heard of multiplayer online games but have never played one
- jn I do not know what multiplayer online games are

Do you have any comments about online games?

38. Finally, do you have any other comments about your course, the role of digital technologies in your learning, or anything else in this survey?

This is the end of the survey: please click the "Finish" button below.