Thema Project: Reflective Survey (IHRL)

About this survey

Welcome! This is the second of the two online surveys that you have agreed to complete for the Thema project. It asks you to tell us about your general experience of the first year of the International Human Rights Law course, as well as the use that you have been making of digital technologies. Note that we have had to make many of the questions consistent with the survey sent to our full-time students, and so some of the answer choices may not be directly relevant to your situation.

The questions are divided into a number of 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.

You need to allow 20-30 minutes to complete the survey. However, if you don't have time right now, then exit without answering any questions and come back later. If you encounter any problems when you're answering the questions, contact me at the email address below.

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 you'll lose everything that you have written).

Please complete the survey by Monday, 3rd November.

To start, scroll down and click "Next Page" below.

Thank you,

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A. General reflections on your course

In this section we would like you to give us general feedback on your studies so far.

* 1. Please give your name:

* 2. Where are you currently living? (City and country)

* 3. What is your main occupation?

* 4. Which year of the course are you in?

- 1 (i.e. started January 2008)
- 2 (i.e. started January 2007)

* 5. In general terms, how has the course gone so far? Has the experience lived up to your expectations?

* 6. Generally speaking, when have you done your studying? (You can tick more than one box if applicable.)

- Evenings
- Weekends
- Lunchtimes at work
- A specific day (or part of a day) during the week
- No particular pattern: studying as and when I can

Please feel free to clarify your response (for example, if your study patterns have changed over the year):

* 7. Has the workload been more, or less, than you expected?

- Much more than expected
- A bit more than expected
- About the same as expected
- A bit less than expected
- Much less than expected

What strategies have you used in order to manage your workload over the year?

* 8. How much interest in, and support for, your studies do you receive from your family and friends?

* 9. How much interest in, and support for, your studies do you receive from your managers and colleagues at work?

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B. Specific aspects of the course

* 10. Roughly how much of the required reading did you manage to do for the taught modules (be honest!)?

- 90% or more
- 60% to 90%
- 40% to 60%
- 10% to 40%
- 10% or less

Please feel free to clarify your response:

* 11. When you conduct a literature search for an assignment (including your dissertation), which of these sources of references are you likely to use?

	Very likely: this is one of my top sources of information	Quite likely	Not very likely	Never use
The reading list for the course				
Gateway sites: i.e. Websites offering lists of links to other sites on law				
Library catalogue (online)				
Journal alerts: e.g. Zetoc, Informaworld				
Bibliographical databases				
General-purpose search engine: e.g. Google				
Specialist search engine: e.g. Google Scholar				
A personal list of references which I have built up during the course (e.g. on paper or in del.icious, EndNote, RefWorks or other online tools)				
Browsing the library shelves to see what's there				
Recommendations made by individual tutors				
Recommendations made by friends (e.g. if they find a reference they think would be useful to you)				

Please feel free to clarify your response:

* 12. When you obtain an online resource, how do you read it?

	Always or most of the time	Quite a lot	Sometimes	Rarely or never
Wholly on the screen				
Scan it on-screen to see if it's interesting before I print it				
Print it without looking at it on the screen first				

* 13. Have you obtained material from libraries etc. in your locality in addition to the materials sent to you from Oxford?

- Yes
- No

Please feel free to clarify your response:

* 14. During the taught module discussions took place in a text-based forum. Was this a satisfactory medium for you?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Feel free to clarify your response. For example, can you think of any more exciting or creative technologies that could have been used to enhance the experience?

* 15. How much has your tutors' feedback on your assignments given you a feeling for how well you are doing in your studies?

- Very much
- Quite a bit
- Not very much
- Not at all

Please feel free to clarify your response:

* 16. How easy has it been to make contact with your tutor to discuss academic matters?

- Very easy
- Quite easy
- Not very easy
- Not at all easy
- I didn't try to consult my tutor
- No opinion

What practical problems (if any) did you encounter in trying to contact your tutor?

* 17. By what means would you like to be able to contact your tutor? (You can tick more than one choice.)

- Email
- Synchronous chat (e.g. MSN)
- "Conventional" telephone
- Internet telephony (e.g. Skype) - voice only
- Internet telephony (e.g. Skype) - voice and video
- Videoconferencing software
- Other (please specify)

* 18. What was the impact of the residential session on you? (You can interpret this question as broadly or as narrowly as you like!)

* 19. What kind of impact do you think the residential session has had on the cohort as a whole? For example, do you have a greater sense of collective identity now?

* 20. What is your opinion on the timing of the residential session?

- It is good to have it several months into the course
- It would be best at the start of the course
- Other

Feel free to clarify your response:

* 21. Have you had any contact with other IHRL students outside the formal environment, whether to socialise or to share resources?

- Yes
- No

If Yes, what medium have you used (email, phone, meetings in person), and how often have you been in contact?

* 22. How many times did you have to contact Oxford for assistance with IT-related problems (e.g. accessing and using the course Website and other Web-based resources)?

- 5 or more
- 2 - 5
- Once
- Never

Do you have any comments on the ease/difficulty with which you problem was sorted out?

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C. General comments about distance learning

* 23. Here are some (edited) comments that students made in the first survey about the strengths of distance learning in general. How strongly do they reflect your own experience of the IHRL course?

	Very strongly	Fairly strongly	Fairly weakly	Not at all	No opinion
I am independent in terms of time and place					
It's easier to integrate studies into the rest of my life					
I have more time to elaborate my thoughts before sharing them with others.					
People are more thoughtful in their responses to discussions when they have to write them down					
I can learn more and get more done in a shorter time (i.e. my learning is more efficient and productive)					
The diversity of participants in terms of culture and nationality makes for richer discussions					

Feel free to clarify any of the responses you have given:

* 24. And here are some comments that they made about the shortcomings of distance learning. Once again, how strongly do they reflect your own experience of the IHRL course?

	Very strongly	Fairly strongly	Fairly weakly	Not at all	No opinion
It's hard to get used to studying without knowing your colleagues					
It's harder to build relationships online					
It's harder to explain yourself in written communication					
Misunderstandings are more likely to arise in online discussions where you don't have visual and auditory cues					
You may feel more alone if you experience a problem or feel uncertain about something					
You can miss the intellectual stimulus of an academic environment					
You can miss the lively exchange of opinions and "cut and thrust" of a face-to-face discussion					
It's more difficult to get technical support from the university if I have IT problems					

Feel free to clarify any of the responses you have given:

D. About your personal use of technology

25. Do you know which operating system your computer has? (You can tick more than one answer if appropriate)

- Windows XP or Windows Vista
- Mac OS X
- Other
- I don't know/I don't have a computer

If you ticked "Other," which operating system is it?

26. Given the choice between Windows and Mac (and the money to buy whatever computer you want!), which would you prefer, and why?

* 27. Please indicate in general terms how you use the email addresses that you have. You can tick more than one box on each row if you need to.

	I use this address for communications about my studies	I use this address for personal and social purposes	I automatically forward (redirect) messages sent here to another address	I do not use this address/I do not have such an address
Departmental email address: i.e. @conted.ox.ac.uk				
College email address: e.g. @kellogg.ox.ac.uk				
Personal email address				
Email address at your place of work				

Please feel free to tell us more about how you use your different email accounts:

* 28. When you put your personal information online, or buy something on the Web, there is a risk that someone will use it in a misleading or fraudulent way. How worried are you about this risk?

- Very worried
- Fairly worried
- Not very worried
- Not worried at all

Please feel free to clarify your response:

* 29. What steps do you take to protect your personal information in an online environment (be honest!)?

	Yes, I knowingly do this	No, I knowingly don't do this	I didn't know that I could do this
Before I disclose personal information or give my credit card number I check that the site is secure: i.e. there's a padlock icon in the bottom right hand corner of the web browser.			
Check the privacy statement of the site I'm using to see what I'm signing up and agreeing to.			
On social networking sites, use the "privacy" settings to determine who can view my profile and contact information.			
Set up an email address specifically for use on "social" sites, in order to minimise the amount of spam sent to my main email address.			
Set my browser to warn me when a cookie is installed and/or set my browser to block cookies.			
When I post photos of myself online, I only make them available to certain people; i.e. I don't let the general public see them.			
I use anti-virus software and keep it up to date.			
My personal policy is never to give any personal details to any Website.			

Please feel free to give any other views on the protection of personal information:

Finally in this section, we would like you to tell us about the 3 most useful, exciting or impressive tools or Websites which you started using during the year. It doesn't matter whether you have used them for your studies or for personal/social purposes: we're interested in everything. For example, they could be:

- Websites of resources for your subject
- "Productivity" tools e.g. EndNote, RefWorks, modelling tools or computer-aided design tools
- "Social" sites e.g. Flickr, YouTube
- Hardware e.g. webcam, interactive whiteboard, portable digital dictionary

Leave the questions blank if nothing in particular has impressed you.

30. Tool/Website no. 1: Name and short description or Web address:

31. How did you find out about this tool?

- From a tutor/lecturer
- From another student on my course/in my college
- I found it by myself (e.g. through searching in Google)
- From another source (please tell us):

32. What do you like about it?

33. Tool/Website no. 2: Name and short description or Web address:

34. How did you find out about this tool?

- From a tutor/lecturer
- From another student on my course/in my college
- I found it by myself (e.g. through searching in Google)
- From another source (please tell us):

35. What do you like about it?

36. Tool/Website no. 3: Name and short description or Web address:

37. How did you find out about this tool?

- From a tutor/lecturer
- From another student on my course/in my college
- I found it by myself (e.g. through searching in Google)
- From another source (please tell us):

38. What do you like about it?

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E. Social Software

In the first survey we asked you about your previous use of "social software" such as Facebook, Flickr, YouTube and Skype. In the final section of this survey we would like you to tell us whether this use has changed since October.

In response to the "using before the course" statements:
- Click Yes if the tool was an important part of your studies/and or personal life, even if you didn't use it very often. Otherwise, click No.

In response to the "using now" statements:
- Click Yes if the tool is an important part of your studies/and or personal life, even if you don't use it very often.
- Click No if you haven't used it at all, if you stopped using it, or if you tried it and decided that it wasn't for you.

* 39. Facebook, MySpace or other "social network" sites

	Yes	No
I was using such sites before the course		
I use them now		

* 40. Flickr, YouTube and other sites for storing and sharing media

	Yes	No
I was using such sites before the course		
I use them now		

* 41. Podcasts

	Yes	No
I listened to podcasts before the course		
I listen to podcasts now		

* 42. Wikis

	Yes	No
I had contributed to wikis before the course		
I contribute to wikis now		

* 43. Blogs written by other people

	Yes	No
I was reading other people's blogs before the course		
I read other people's blogs now		

* 44. Your own blog

	Yes	No
I had my own blog before the course		
I write a blog now		

* 45. Social bookmarking tools e.g. del.icio.us, StumbleUpon, Furl

	Yes	No
I was using one before the course		
I use one now		

* 46. Online calendar e.g. Google Calendar, iCal, Yahoo Calendar

	Yes	No
I was using one before the course		
I use one now		

* 47. Internet telephony e.g. Skype, Ventrilo

	Yes	No
I was using it before the course		
I use it now		

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

	Yes	No
I was reading these before the course		
I read them now		

* 49. Chat or instant messaging e.g. MSN Messenger, Google Talk

	Yes	No
I was using it before the course		
I use it now		

* 50. Second Life

	Yes	No
I was using it before the course		
I use it now		

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

	Yes	No
I was playing such games before the course		
I play such games now		

52. Please feel free to comment further on your use of, or opinions on, social software: