



Human Rights

Term:	Autumn 2022
ECTS credits:	5
Lessons per week:	2 x 90 min
Language:	English
Instructor:	JUDr. Sylvia Tiryaki, PhD
Form of study:	Lecture + class discussion

Prerequisites

- Sufficient proficiency in English language
- Basic knowledge of academic writing

Course description

This basic course on human rights aims to provide students with an understanding of what the human rights are and their importance in today's world, including the European and international legal protection framework. To this end, we look at the historical origins, doctrine, how they are formed in law, institutional structure of the movement and the challenges to its foundations.

Course objectives

To see the 'big picture' students are encouraged to think critically about the human rights in their entirety. Students will examine, evaluate, and engage critically with different interpretations of political events, trends, phenomena on national and global levels. The course acquaints students with the contemporary issues ranging from torture and arbitrary detention to rights of refugees and access to health. Case studies are being conducted with and by students during the semester. Online meetings with experts and practitioners are organised when feasible. In addition, students will learn to:

- Promote liberal democratic values
- Encourage caring and responsible attitude towards self, others, and the world
- Foster tolerance and empathy, and promote diversity

Office Hours

By e-mail appointment.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

20% Active attendance at seminars, participation in debates, preparedness for class
10% Written class preparation (questions and comments on respective text or a short reflection on the contents of the previous lesson)
20% Quiz
50% Essay (7-10 pages)



A – excellent:	100-93%
B – very good:	92-84%
C – good:	83-74%
D – satisfactory:	73-63%
E – sufficient:	62-51%
Fx – fail:	50-0%

Attendance

A “tardy” will be given for arriving within 10 minutes after the scheduled start of class. Three such tardies are considered one absence. A late arrival of more than 10 minutes counts as an absence. Students may miss a total of four classes. Missing more than four classes will result in failing the course.

Academic Integrity

As per guidelines in the Student’s Handbook, if a teacher has credible suspicions that a student has cheated on an assignment or plagiarized part or the entirety of a paper, the teacher will inform the student, the Coordinator of Studies, and the student’s advisor. The student will be called in by the advisor, be given the chance to rewrite the assignment, and be placed on academic probation for the duration of their studies at BISLA. The Academic Disciplinary Committee will also be notified. The grade granted for the rewritten assignment will be determined by the teacher and normally lowered by two levels. In principle, a student may be expelled on their first offense. However, BISLA believes that students should be given a second chance. If the student is suspected of cheating or plagiarizing a second time (in any course), the teacher will notify the Studies Coordinator and the student’s advisor, after which the student will be brought before the Academic Disciplinary Committee to face disciplinary action, i.e. expulsion

Expectations in the Classroom

The use of laptops in the classroom is essential for successful completion of the course.

Texts

Mandatory readings

1. Andrew Clapham, Human Rights. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007
2. Henry J. Steiner, Philip Alston & Ryan Goodman, International Human Rights in Context. 3rd ed., Oxford: Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008
3. Clare Ovey & Robin C.A. White, The European Convention on Human Rights, 4th ed., Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006

Other materials

In addition to the required course readings, basic documents like relevant international conventions, declarations as well as constitutions are necessary companions of students of this course.



Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic
1.	20.9.2022	General introduction
1.	22.9.2022	Human rights: Concepts and Discourse
2.	27.9.2022	History of international human rights
2.	29.9.2022	Human rights and United Nations
3.	4.10.2022	Hierarchy of human rights, qualified and unqualified rights
3.	6.10.2022	Regional dimension of human rights: The European Convention on Human Rights (1)
4.	11.10.2022	Regional dimension of human rights: The European Convention on Human Rights (2)
4.	13.10.2022	Implementation, international monitoring, treaty bodies
5.	18.10.2022	Human rights of refugees, stateless people
5.	20.10.2022	Minority rights
6.	25.10.2022	War crimes and crimes against humanity
6.	27.10.2022	Slavery and human trafficking (1)
7.	1.11.2022	Reading week (1)
7.	3.11.2022	Reading week (2)
8.	8.11.2022	Slavery and human trafficking (2)
8.	10.11.2022	Human rights in the digital age
9.	15.11.2022	International crime of torture
9.	17.11.2022	Discrimination and equality: Women rights (1)
10.	22.11.2022	Discrimination and equality: Women rights (2)
10.	24.11.2022	Rights of the child, rights of disabled people
11.	29.11.2022	Right to education
11.	1.12.2022	Legitimate Restrictions on Freedom
12.	6.12.2022	Right to health, death penalty
12.	8.12.2022	Privacy as a universal right
13.	13.12.2022	The right to development, climate change
13.	15.12.2022	Food, housing, and work/Water
14.	20.12.2022	Protection of personal data in European context
14.	22.12.2022	Review



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