



Tübingen – Berlin International Summer School

June 15th – July 13th, 2019

Course title:	Human Rights in Europe: Current Issues and Challenges
Date:	July 1 st – July 12 th , 2019
Language of instruction:	English
Lecturer:	Dr. Germana Favognano-Bihr
Email address:	gerryfavognano@gmail.com
Contact hours:	48 (including study trips)
ECTS-Credits:	4

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The supranational political system of the European Union today has the power to influence the protection of human rights all over the world. This course will introduce students into the theory and implementation of human rights and to EU politics to assess and protect them by significant executive and legislative powers.

This course offers a great insight into comparative European Studies by focusing on human rights as a connecting principle between all countries and peoples around the world. The first part of the course will focus on the origin and history of human rights and will offer an overview on the most important international and European institutions and laws. After a short introduction to the political system of the European Union, the second part of the course will center on real cases of human rights abuses occurring in EU countries. The students will be confronted with authentic problems and will discuss and analyze in class the problems occurring when trying to defend basic rights. Successful integration of different cultures will also be a topic of discussion.

COURSE SCHEDULE

	Date	Topic	Required Reading	Recommended Reading
1 (= 2UE)	Monday, July 1 st (I): 09:00am – 10:30am	Introduction to the course A general theory of human rights	<i>Universal Declaration of Human Rights</i> <i>Human Rights A Very Short Introduction</i>	

2	Monday, July 1 st (II): 11:00am – 12:30pm	The global Human Rights Protection System		<i>Exploring International Human Rights Chap.1</i>
3	Monday, July 1 st (III): 02:00pm – 03:30pm	Focusing on the Issues		
4	Tuesday, July 2 nd (I): 09:00am – 10:30am	The European system of human rights protection	<i>European Convention on Human Rights Section One</i>	<i>European Court of Human Rights Q&A</i>
5	Tuesday, July 2 nd (II): 11:00am – 12:30pm	Human Rights Issues in the European Union	<i>Human Rights Watch World Report European Union</i>	
6	Tuesday, July 2 nd (III): 02:00pm – 03:30pm	Focusing on the issues		
7	Wednesday, July 3 rd : 09:00am – 10:30am	INTERMEDIATE EXAM		
8 - 10	Thursday, July 4th: Study Trip (I) Human Rights Day in Tübingen!			
11	Monday, July 8 th (I): 09:00am – 10:30am	Unwelcome Guests? The so-called European Refugees Crisis		<i>A Common European Asylum System</i>
12	Monday, July 8 th (II): 11:00am – 12:30pm	Case studies	<i>Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union</i>	
13	Monday, July 8 th (III): 02:00pm – 03:30pm	Guest Lecturer on Asylum and Immigration	<i>Fullerton Asylum Crisis</i>	Italy's Mediterranean mass grave
14 - 17	Tuesday, July 9th: Study Trip (II) to Strasbourg			
18	Wednesday, July 10 th (I): 11:00am – 12:30pm	Rights of minorities in the European Union	<i>Fundamental Right Agency Report Chapter 3</i>	...

19	Wednesday, July 10 th (II): 02:00pm – 03:30pm	Focusing on the Issue		<i>The Struggle for Survival of the Roma People</i>
20	Thursday, July 11th (I): 09:00am – 10:30am	Minorities in the European Union: comparing integration policies	<i>Toward a comprehensive European protection system for minorities: chapter 3</i>	...
21	Thursday, July 11th (II): 11:00am – 12:30pm	Discussion session
22	Thursday, July 11th (III): 02:00pm – 03:30pm	Exam preparation
23	Friday, July 12th (I): 09:00am – 10:30am	FINAL EXAM
24	Friday, July 12th (II): 11:00am – 12:30pm	Summary and evaluation

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The aim of the course is to provide for an informed understanding of the role of human rights in contemporary European politics. At the end of the course, students will be familiar with theoretical and practical approaches to human rights' implementation and with the positive and negative aspects of EU politics regarding this subject. Another strong focus is an evaluation of EU institutions and the efficiency of their laws. Students will learn to deal with human rights issues and will be able to differentiate cases and topics at local, European and international levels. Furthermore, they will improve their ability to support basic rights in different ways.

PREREQUISITES

The course is designed for undergraduate students from different countries and with different academic backgrounds who want to deepen their knowledge in European human rights politics. A very good command of English and the willingness to actively participate in the course are required.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Final average grade: final exam covering all subjects of the course program (40%), a midterm exam covering the topics of the first sessions of the class (30%), and active participation in class (30%).

READING (REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED)

A Common European Asylum System : Publications Office of the European Union, 2014
https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/e-library/docs/ceas-factsheets/ceas_factsheet_en.pdf

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union - Chapters 1-3
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/charter/pdf/text_en.pdf

Clapham, Andrew: Human Rights A Very Short Introduction, Oxford University Press 2007
Chapter 2

European Convention on Human Rights: Section One
https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/sites/digital-agenda/files/Convention_ENG.pdf

European Court of Human Rights Questions and Answers
http://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Questions_Answers_ENG.pdf

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights – Fundamental Rights Report 2018
Chapter 3

Fullerton, Maryellen: Asylum Crisis Italian Style: The Dublin Regulation Collides with European Human Rights Law, Harvard Human Rights Journal / Vol. 29
Section 1 (pp.58-73) and Section V (122-133)

Human Rights Watch: World Report 2018
<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2018> pag.213-235

L.Callaway Rhonda & Harrelson-Stephens, Julie: Exploring International Human Rights,
Lynnie-Rienner Publishers 2007 Chapter 1

Towards a Comprehensive Eu Protection System for Minorities Chapter 3
<https://www.ceps.eu/system/files/ProtectionSystemForMinorities.pdf>

Universal Declaration of Human Rights
http://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Documents/UDHR_Translations/eng.pdf

Video Files

The Struggle for Survival of the Roma People: Europe's Most Hated
VICE News Jul 24, 2014
Retrieved from http://youtu.be/1_hKLFtKU5Yhttps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALdlphTYdi4

Italy's Mediterranean Mass Grave: Europe or die (Episode 4/4)
Vice News 16.02.2015
Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=opbSFGIAefQ>

INFORMATION ON THE LECTURER

Dr. Germana Favognano-Bihr graduated in Political Science and International Relations and got her PhD in Human Rights Studies at the University of Palermo (Italy) with a dissertation on the International Criminal Court of the U.N. She was active in the field of human rights education and migration issues for NGOs in London, Italy, Brazil and Germany. She held seminars on human rights education at the University of Tübingen and for the political representatives of the Committees of Italians Abroad. Her special interest is the role of international courts and tribunals in protecting and promoting human rights.