

Course Outline

Course number	RBA315				
Course title	International Human Rights Law				
Credit points	3 ECTS (2 CP)				
Total hours	80				
Lecture hours	24				
Seminar and other hours	8				
Course level	Bachelor				
Prerequisites	-				
Category	Mandatory	x	Restricted elective		Free elective

COURSE RESPONSIBLE

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Emre Turkut	PhD	Visiting lecturer

COURSE TEACHERS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Emre Turkut	PhD	Visiting lecturer
Zane Ratniece	LLM	Visiting lecturer

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers an introduction to the theory and practice of human rights. It critically examines the (inter)national laws, actors and institutions that play a role in the development, structure and efficacy of international human rights law. The course will investigate the historical, philosophical and conceptual foundations of international human rights law, the principles of human rights enforcement machinery, the major sources of international human rights law, and the international and regional human rights protection mechanisms. Next, it will focus on substantive human rights including but not limited to the right to life, prohibition of inhumane or degrading treatment, or torture, the right to liberty and security, the right to fair trial, the right to private life and offer a comparative perspective involving a number of human rights protection instruments, with a special focus on the ECHR and ICCPR. Finally, the course will discuss some of the contemporary challenges to the protection of human rights associated with national emergencies, terrorism and the global COVID-19 pandemic.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will be structured around the following specific learning outcomes/objectives in international human rights law:

- Understand the historical, philosophical and conceptual foundations of international human rights law;

- Identify, explain, and analyze the major international enforcement mechanisms for international human rights;
- Compare the (inter)national and regional human rights law systems;
- Foster an understanding of some of the contemporary challenges to human rights today;
- Critically assess some of the substantive human rights and their application in the various global and regional systems;
- Critically examine practical case studies where relevant (modelled on the basis of the ECtHR approach).

GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	Weighting
Final exam	70%
Mid-term exam (handouts)	30%

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	Main subjects	Planned hours
1	Introduction to human rights: general principles, philosophy, history	2
2	National, regional and international human rights protection systems and implementation	8
3	Civil and political rights: rights	12
4	Civil and political rights: freedoms	6
5	Economic, social and cultural rights	2
6	Overview and Q&A	2