



Tübingen-International & European Studies (T-IES)

Summer School June

TRACK A

The Right to Disagree

Human Rights, Minority Rights and Freedom of Expression in Europe Today

May 31 – June 28, 2024

Course title:	The Right to Disagree: Human Rights and Freedom of Expression in Europe Today
Date / Room:	June 7 – June 21, 2024 / Room tba
Language of instruction:	English
Lecturer:	Dr. Germana Favognano
Contact hours:	32 + exam + study trip + field work

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the importance of freedom of expression and minority rights as core values of democratic societies of today's Europe. After a general introduction to human rights and the European human rights protection system, the students will be confronted with authentic cases of human rights violations in Europe and will discuss the problems occurring when trying to implement and protect fundamental rights, democracy and the rule of law.

COURSE SCHEDULE

	Date	Topic	Reading
1 (= 90 minutes)	Thursday, June 7 10:30 – 12:00	Human rights: a general introduction	<i>Universal Declaration of Human Rights</i> <i>Council of Europe: What are Human Rights?</i>

2	Thursday, June 7 13:30 – 15:00	Focusing on the issue	<i>Ukrainian President Zelensky addresses the U.N Security Council</i>
3	Monday, June 10 10:30 – 12:00	The European system of human rights protection	<i>Donnelly -Whelan p.120-123/132</i> The European Court of Human Rights (video) Inside the Council of Europe (video)
4	Monday, June 10 13:30 – 15:00	Minority rights in the EU	<i>European Convention on Human Rights</i>
5	Tuesday, June 11 10:30 – 12:00	Minority rights in the EU: migration and integration	TBA
6	Tuesday, June 11 13:30 – 15:00	Focusing on the issue	Materials will be distributed in class
	Wednesday, June 12 All Day	Field Work <i>(separate schedule will be made available)</i>	
7	Thursday, June 13 10:30 – 12:00	The right to disagree: freedom of expression in Europe today	<i>Gunatilleke 2020</i>
8	Thursday, June 13 13:30 – 15:00	Can freedom of expression be abused/limited? Case studies	Current newspaper articles
9	Monday, June 17 10:30 – 12:00	The populist challenge across Europe affecting freedom of expression	Donders 2020 The Rise of the Right: Populism in Hungary 2020 Populism in Germany 2019
10+11	Monday, June 17 13:30 – 16:30	Focusing on the issue	Vice 2021 France 24- 2021
12	Tuesday, June 18 10:30 – 12:00	Hate speech	Billingham-Bonotti 2019
13+14	Tuesday, June 18 13:30 – 16:30	Focusing on the issue	Zhan 2015 Bangstad 2020

	Wednesday, June 19 All Day	Study Trip <i>(separate schedule will be made available)</i>
15	Thursday, June 20 10:30 – 12:00	Freedom of expression: the work of the NGOs and how we can help Selected web sites of Amnesty International, Article 19, Human Rights watch, Scholars at Risk, Reporters without Borders (tba)
16	Thursday, June 20 13:30 – 15:00	Summary and conclusions
	Friday, June 21 10:30 – 11:30	Final Written Exam

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The aim of the course is to provide an informed and deep understanding of the rights of minorities and the right to freedom of expression in contemporary Europe and the challenge presented by (especially right-wing) populism. At the end of the course, students will be familiar with theoretical and practical approaches to the implementation of this basic right and with the positive and negative aspects of European politics regarding this subject. Through role plays and case studies, the students will be personally involved in human rights practices.

PREREQUISITES

The course is designed for undergraduate students (in their first or second year) from the social sciences and / or humanities with basic EU knowledge and a strong general interest in Europe and the EU. A very good command of English and the willingness to actively participate in the course are required.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

The course concludes with a written exam at the end of the program. The grade of the course will be calculated by the result of the written exam and active participation during class sessions. The total amount of ECTS to be obtained upon successful completion of the program is 8 (eight).

READING

Donnelly, Jack/Whelan Daniel J, (2020) International Human Rights, 6th Edition, Routledge pp. 120-123, 132

Legislation

European Convention on Human Right, Section One available at https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/sites/digital-agenda/files/Convention_ENG.pdf

Universal Declaration of Human Rights available at

https://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Documents/UDHR_Translations/eng.pdf

Video files

ECHR - *Film on the European Court Of Human Rights* available at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPWGdhgQlgk>

Ukrainian President Zelensky Addresses U.N. Security Council 5 April 2022

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SM24YCH5cnw>

The Rise of the Right: Populism in Hungary (Video file) BBC News-2020 available at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yu7LvNb1atU>

The Rise of the Right: Populism in Germany (Video file) BBC News-2019 available at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-pP3EcdC1VU>

Ukrainian President Zelensky Addresses U.N. Security Council 5 April 2022

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SM24YCH5cnw>

Vice 2021 The rise of France's Far Right (Video File) available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7deTQz2YMxl>

International Organizations/ NGOs

Council of Europe (2023) What are Human Rights

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/compass/what-are-human-rights->

Academic articles

Billingham P., Bonotti, M. (2019) "Introduction: Hate, Offence and Free Speech in a Changing World" *Springer Nature B.V.* 5 September available at

<https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s10677-019-10027-5.pdf>

Donders, Yvonne: "Diversity in Europe: From Pluralism to Populism?" *International Studies in Human Rights*; Vol. 130, 2020 *European Populism and Human Rights* (pp. 52-71)

https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004416017_004

Gunatilleke, Gehan (2020) "Justifying Limitations on The Freedom of Expression" *Human Rights Review* Nov.2020 available at <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12142-020-00608-8>

Newspaper articles

Bangstad, Sindre (2020) "The 2019 mosque attack and freedom of speech in Norway"

Aljazeera 26 May 2020 available at

<https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2020/5/26/the-2019-mosque-attack-and-freedom-of-speech-in-norway/>

France 24 (2021) France bans far-right anti-migrant group Generation Identity France 24, 3

March 2021 available at : <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210303-france-bans-far-right-anti-migrant-group-generation-identity>

Zhang, Tu (2015) "M' Blala M' Blala v. France: You Can Blaspheme, But You Cannot Use Hate Speech?" *University of Leiden law blog* 19 November 2015 available at

<https://leidenlawblog.nl/articles/m-blala-m-blala-v-france-you-can-blaspheme-but-you-cannot-use-hate-speech>

INFORMATION ON THE LECTURER

Dr. Germana Favognano is currently a lecturer for Human Rights at the Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen with a special focus on migration issues and freedom of expression in Europe. She graduated in Political Science and International Relations and specialized 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. Her special field of study is the role of international courts in protecting and promoting human rights and freedom of expression.