



**Tübingen-International & European Studies (T-IES)**

**Doshisha EU Campus European Studies Program**

**Course C**

***European Politics of Human Rights***

**September 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025**

<b>Course title:</b>	European Politics of Human Rights
<b>Date / Room:</b>	30.09 –10.10 , 2024 / Room tba
<b>Language of instruction:</b>	English
<b>Lecturer:</b>	Dr Germana Favognano
<b>Contact hours:</b>	25 (incl. exam and wrap-up) + study trip: Strasbourg

**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 an 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. The second part of the course will focus on some of the current challenges the EU is facing in trying to assess and protect human rights. The students will be confronted with authentic problems and will discuss and analyse in class the problems occurring when trying to defend basic rights.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
<b>1</b> <b>(= 90 minutes)</b>	Monday, September 30 13:30 – 15:00	<b>Human rights: a general introduction</b>	<i>Universal Declaration of Human Rights</i>  <i>Council of Europe: What are Human Rights?</i>

2	Monday, September 30 15:30 – 17:00	<b>The European system of human rights protection</b>	<i>Donnelly -Whelan p.120-123/132</i> <i>European Convention on Human Rights (Section One)</i>
3	Tuesday, October 1 10:30 – 12:00	<b>Human Rights Issues in the European Union</b>	The European Court of Human Rights (video) Inside the Council of Europe (video)
4	Tuesday, October 1 13:30 – 15:00	<b>Case studies on human rights violations in the EU</b>	<i>Human Rights Watch Report Section on the European Union</i>
5	Tuesday, October 1 15:30 – 17:00	<b>The populist challenge to human rights in Europe</b>	Donders 2020 The Guardian 2023
	Wednesday, October 2 All Day	<b>Study Trip to Strasbourg</b> <i>(separate schedule will be made available)</i>	
6	Tuesday, October 8 10:30 – 12:00	<b>Migration and Asylum in the EU</b>	Vallianatou 2023 Camut-Wax 2023
7	Tuesday, October 8 13:30 – 15:00	<b>Migration and Asylum in the EU II</b>	Glucroft 2023 Euronews 2023
8	Tuesday, October 8 15:30 – 17:00	<b>Focusing on the issue</b>	<i>Materials will be distributed during the class</i>
9	Wednesday, October 9 10:30 – 12:00	<b>The right to disagree: freedom of expression in Europe</b>	Article 19 What is freedom of Expression?
10	Wednesday, October 9 13:30 – 15:00	<b>Freedom of expression: hate speech and rights of minorities</b>	The rise of the right Populism in Germany 2019 The rise of France's Far Right 2021
11	Wednesday, October 9 15:30 – 17:00	<b>Focusing on the issue</b>	Zhan 2015 Bangstad 2020
12	Thursday, October 10 10:00 – 11:00	<b>Final Written Exam</b>	

13	Thursday, June 20 11:30 – 12:15	<b>Wrap-up</b>
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### **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 does not require any special knowledge. The course is designed for undergraduate students from Doshisha University with different academic backgrounds who are generally interested in Europe and the European Union. A good command of English and the willingness to actively participate in the course are required.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING**

Each course concludes with a written exam at the end of the program. The grade of each course will be calculated by the result of the written exam (70%), active participation in class as well as by field work assignments (30%). Active participation in class as well as during field work includes: attendance, asking questions, taking part in discussions, showing interest, giving presentations.

### **READING**

Article 19, What is freedom of Expression? available at <https://www.article19.org/what-is-freedom-of-expression/>

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/>

Camut-Wax (2023) EU strikes „historic“ migration deal POLITICO December 20, 2023  
<https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-migration-deal-roberta-metsola-refugees-migration-asylum-rules/>

Council of Europe (2023) What are Human Rights?  
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/compass/what-are-human-rights->

CoE Inside the Council of Europe (7:35) available at  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLuKcy4HJnU>

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](https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004416017_004)

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

ECHR Film on the European Court of Human Rights available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPWGDhgQlgk>

Euro News 2023 NGOs in Italy slam Europe for allowing migrant deaths in the Mediterranean (10:00) available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5J3TtdJOg8> subtitles in English

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

Glucroft, William (2023) *Germany's migrants and minorities fear a far-right surge*, DW 07.24.23 <https://www.dw.com/en/migrants-and-minorities-in-germany-fear-a-far-right-surge/video-66332509>

The Guardian, More than 100,000 protest across Germany over far-right AfD's mass deportation meetings The Guardian 01.21. 24 available at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/jan/21/more-than-100000-protest-across-germany-over-far-right-afds-mass-deportation-meetings>

The Rise of the Right: Populism in Germany (Video file) BBC News-2019 available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-pP3EcdC1VU>

The rise of France's Far Right (Video File) Vice 2021 available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7deTQz2YMxl>

Universal Declaration of Human Rights available at [https://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Documents/UDHR\\_Translations/eng.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Documents/UDHR_Translations/eng.pdf)

Vallianatou, Anna (2023) *The way forward for EU migration and asylum policy*, Chatham House, 04.19. 2023 <https://www.chathamhouse.org/2023/04/way-forward-eu-migration-and-asylum-policy>

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.