



Tübingen International & European Studies (T-IES) Winter School on

Culture and Diversity

STUDY TRACK A

Europe, Diversity, and the Question of Identity

January 7 – February 4, 2025

Course title:	Human Rights and Migration in Europe Today
Date / Room:	January 20–23, 2025
Language of instruction:	English
Lecturer:	Dr. Germana Favognano-Bihr
Contact hours:	16 + study trip

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The new ethic of human rights is a connecting principle between all countries and peoples all over the world and a basic element for the construction of a common European identity. This second Track A course will introduce students to the European politics of human rights, its achievements and failures, and to one of the most difficult challenges that the EU is facing: the protection of refugees, migrants and minorities rights within the Union. The students will be confronted with authentic stories of migrants and asylum seekers and will discuss and analyse the challenges occurring when trying to assess basic rights in today's Europe.

COURSE SCHEDULE

	Date	Topic	Reading
1 (= 90 minutes)	Monday, January 20 (I): 11:00 – 12:30	Human Rights Issues in the European Union	<i>European Convention on Human Rights Section one</i>
2	Monday, January 20 (II): 14:00 – 15:30	Focusing on the issue	<i>Human Rights Watch Report Section on the EU</i>

3	Monday, January 20 (III): 16:00 – 17:30	The European System of Human Rights Protection	<i>Donnelly 2020</i> <i>The Council of Europe (video file)</i>
4	Tuesday, January 21 (I): 11:00 – 12:30	Focusing on the issue	
5	Tuesday, January 21 (II): 14:00 – 15:30	The Migration and Refugee Challenge (I)	<i>EU Migration and Asylum Policy 2023</i>
6	Wednesday, January 22 (I): 11:00 – 12:30	The Migration and Refugee Challenge (II)	<i>Vallianatou 2023</i>
7	Wednesday, January 22 (II): 14:00 – 15:30	Discussion	
8	Wednesday, January 22 (III): 16:00 – 17:30	Summary	<i>Donders 2020</i>
	Thursday, January 23: All Day	Study Trip	

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The aim of the course is to provide for an informed understanding of the role of human rights in contemporary European politics and in shaping European identity. 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. Students will learn to deal with human rights issues and 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 / TARGET GROUPS

The course is designed for undergraduate students from all academic disciplines and with a strong general interest in human rights policies. A good command of English and the willingness to actively participate in the course are required.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

The courses conclude with a final examination. The overall grade will be calculated by the result of the exam and the participants' performance during class sessions / debates.

READING

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

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

EU Migration and Asylum Policy, European Council 2023
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-migration-policy/>

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

Human Rights Watch *World Report 2023- Section on the European Union* (pages 224-235)
https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/media_2023/01/World_Report_2023_WEBSPREADS_0.pdf

Inside the Council of Europe Council of Europe (7:35) <https://www.coe.int/en/web/about-us/videos>

Vallianatou, Anna *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>

INFORMATION ON THE LECTURER

Dr. Germana Favognano-Bihr 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 Italy, U.K., Brazil and Germany. She is currently a lecturer for Human Rights and European Union issues at the Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen. Her special interests are the EU migration and asylum policy and the role of international courts and tribunals in protecting and promoting human rights.