



Doshisha EU Campus European Studies Program

September 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026

Course title:	European Politics of Human Rights
Date / Room:	November 3-14, 2025
Language of instruction:	English
Lecturer:	Dr Germana Favognano
Contact hours:	25 (including exam) + field-work

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The new ethics of human rights serves as a unifying principle among nations and peoples worldwide and forms a fundamental pillar in shaping a common European identity. After an introductory workshop on human rights, the course will introduce students to the European human rights policies, examining both their successes and shortcomings. It will also explore one of the most pressing challenges facing the EU today: the protection of refugees amidst the rise of extremist movements within the Union. Students will engage with real-life case studies of migrants and asylum and discussing the complexities of accessing fundamental rights in contemporary Europe.

COURSE SCHEDULE

	Date	Topic	Reading
1	Monday, November 3 10:15 – 11:45	A short introduction to human rights	Universal Declaration on Human Rights
2	Tuesday, November 4 10:15 – 11:45	Workshop on human rights	Council of Europe: What are Human Rights?
3	Tuesday, November 4 13:15 – 14:45	Workshop on human rights	<i>The material for the workshop will be distributed in class.</i>

4	Wednesday, November 5 10:15-11:45	The European system of human rights protection	<i>European Convention on Human Rights (part one)</i> <i>CoE: Inside the Council of Europe</i>
5	Wednesday, November 5 13:15 – 14:45	Human Rights challenges in the European Union	<i>Human Rights Watch Report on Europe 2025</i>
	Thursday, November 6 All day	Field Work Strasbourg	
6	Monday, November 10 10:15– 11:45	The Challenge of Migration and Asylum in Europe (I)	Vallianatou 2023
7	Tuesday, November 11 10:15 – 11:45	The Challenge of Migration and Asylum in Europe (II)	Robinson 2024
8	Tuesday, November 11 13:15 – 14:45	Case studies	
9	Wednesday, November 12 10:15 – 11:45	Rights at risk: populism and the far right rising (I)	Donders
10	Wednesday, November 12 13:15 – 14:45	Case studies	Feniet 2025
11	Thursday, November 13 10:15 – 11:45	Rights at risk: populism and the far right rising (II)	<i>Glucroft 2023</i>
12	Friday, November 14 10:00-11:00	Final Exam	
	Friday, November 14 11:30-12:15	Wrap-up	

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The course aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the role of human rights in contemporary European politics. By the end of the course, students will have a deep appreciation of both theoretical and practical approaches to human rights implementation, as

well as the strengths and weaknesses of EU policies in this area. They will develop the skills to analyze human rights issues and distinguish cases and topics at local, European, and international levels. Additionally, students will enhance their ability to advocate for fundamental rights through various means.

PREREQUISITES / TARGET GROUPS

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

The overall grade of the course will be calculated taking into account the active participation in class and during field work as well as a written test. Active participation in work includes: attendance, asking questions, taking part in discussions.

READING (REQUIRED)

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

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

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

Feniet, Oliver "Grannies Against the Right' Hit German Streets Ahead Of Election" AFP News Feb 17, 2025 also available <https://www.barrons.com/news/grannies-against-the-right-hit-german-streets-ahead-of-election-b9c9af78>

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>

Human Rights Watch Report on Europe 2025 available at <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2025/country-chapters/european-union>

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

Robinson K., Roy D. (2024) *Europe's Migration Dilemma*, Council of Foreign Relations 05.31.24 available at <https://www.cfr.org/article/europes-migration-dilemma>

Universal Declaration of Human Rights available at
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, 04.19.23 available at <https://www.chathamhouse.org/2023/04/way-forward-eu-migration-and-asylum-policy>

INFORMATION ON THE LECTURER

Dr. Germana Favognano 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. She was active in the field of human rights education, migration and asylum for NGOs in London, Italy, Brazil and Germany. She is currently a lecturer for Human Rights and European Union Politics at the Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen with a special focus on migration issues and freedom of expression.