

Human Rights: Theoretical Concepts and Practical Application

LEVEL	SEMESTER	ECTS	FORMAT	LANGUAGE
Bachelor - Master	Winter	3 ECTS	Lectures and seminars	English

Course description

This course introduces the historical development, theoretical foundations and institutional frameworks of human rights. It focuses on key human rights documents and conventions, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as institutions responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights. Particular attention is given to equality and discrimination, the rights of minorities and vulnerable groups, human rights education and democratic citizenship, and selected human rights issues in Slovakia. The course combines theoretical knowledge with practical application and discussion of current human rights protection.

Main topics

- Origins, meaning and characteristics of human rights
- Historical development and theoretical foundations of human rights
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights
- Three generations of human rights
- Equality and discrimination
- Rights of minorities and vulnerable groups
- Human rights education and democratic citizenship
- Human rights protection through relevant documents and conventions
- Practical application of human rights concepts
- Specific human rights issues in Slovakia
- Human rights in contemporary social and institutional contexts

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- understand the historical development and theoretical foundations of human rights
- critically analyse the development of key human rights documents
- identify relevant institutions and institutional structures for human rights protection
- apply theoretical knowledge of human rights to practical and institutional contexts
- discuss and articulate positions on issues related to human rights protection
- assess human rights issues using relevant documents and international conventions
- understand the principles of human rights education and democratic citizenship
- apply basic human rights knowledge to issues concerning minorities and vulnerable groups
- identify and discuss selected contemporary human rights issues in Slovakia
- develop basic research, digital and presentation skills related to human rights topics

Teaching methods

Lectures, seminars, discussions, independent reading, analysis of selected human rights documents and texts, individual and group work, practical assignments, and student presentations.

Assessment

Active participation, ongoing assignments based on recommended literature, and a presentation on a selected human rights topic. Students are also expected to complete independent study and preparation outside of contact teaching.