

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Faculty of Law

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)

Course Syllabus

1. Course Information

- **Title:** Human Rights I
- **Code:** LLB11
- **ECTS:** 6
- **Hours per week:** 4
- **Academic Year:** 2nd
- **Teaching Period:** Winter Semester
- **Mode of Delivery:** Face-to-Face
- **Language of Instruction/Assessment:** English
- **Course Type:** Mandatory

2. Course Description

This course offers a comprehensive introduction to the theory, structure, and legal protection of fundamental rights in modern constitutional systems, with a particular focus on individual and social rights. It examines the nature, typology, and normative foundations of fundamental rights, exploring the principles of human dignity, equality, liberty, and personal autonomy. Key themes include the classification of rights, the identification of right-holders and duty-bearers, the limits and permissible restrictions of rights under democratic constitutionalism, and the principle of proportionality as key method for balancing rights. The course also addresses the doctrinal and practical challenges posed by the overlap, conflict, and balancing of rights, as well as the

mechanisms for their protection at the national, European, and international levels—particularly through judicial review. Special attention is given to core rights including personal liberty, privacy, freedom of expression, religious freedom, and rights of collective action, while selected case law illustrates the interaction between domestic and supranational legal orders. The course lays the groundwork for deeper engagement with human rights in subsequent modules.

3. Keywords

Fundamental Rights, Human Dignity, Liberty, Bill of Rights, Constitutional Liberties, Civil Rights, Political Rights, Social Rights

4. Learning Outcomes

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

1. **Identify** the main categories of individual and social rights and describe their constitutional basis in national and supranational legal orders. (*Remembering*)
2. **Explain** the principles of human dignity, liberty, and equality as foundational values of rights protection. (*Understanding*)
3. **Analyse** the legal structure of rights, including right-holders, duty-bearers, and the mechanisms available for their enforcement. (*Analysing*)
4. **Evaluate** the justification and constitutionality of restrictions on fundamental rights in light of domestic and international legal standards. (*Evaluating*)
5. **Apply** constitutional doctrine and case law to concrete scenarios involving conflict, limitation, or balancing of fundamental rights. (*Applying*)

5. General Skills to Be Acquired

- Apply knowledge in practice
- Retrieve, analyse, and synthesise data and information
- Adapt to new situations
- Make decisions
- Work in an international context

- Work in an interdisciplinary team
- Generate new research ideas
- Appreciate diversity and multiculturalism
- Respect the natural environment
- Be critical and self-critical
- Advance free, creative, and causative thinking

6. Course Content (Topics)

1. **Concept and Typology of Fundamental Rights in National Constitutions** – Introduction to individual and social rights in the Greek Constitution (Articles 4–25); comparison with German *Grundrechte* and the French *bloc de constitutionnalité*.
2. **Generations of Rights: Historical Development and Doctrinal Classification** – Civil, political, social, and emerging rights in Greek constitutional law and selected European systems (e.g. Italy, Spain).
3. **The Legal Structure of a Right: Subject, Addressee, Scope, and Normative Content** – Doctrinal and methodological approaches alongside comparative views from Greece, Germany, France, and the ECHR's influence on national courts.
4. **Methods of Interpreting Fundamental Rights in Constitutional Law** – Systematic and teleological interpretation; originalism and the living constitution approach to interpretation of human rights; contrast with common law reasoning and civil law doctrines.
5. **The Principle of Human Dignity in Constitutional Jurisprudence** – From Article 2(1) of the Greek Constitution to its broader role in comparative constitutional law.
6. **Equality and Anti-Discrimination: Formal and Substantive Dimensions** – Article 4 GC in context; gender and status-based equality under Greek law, compared with proportionality doctrines in Germany and UK.
7. **Constitutional Conditions for Restricting Fundamental Rights** – Article 25(1) GC and proportionality in national doctrine; comparative models of limitation clauses (e.g. Article 19 German Basic Law, Canadian Charter s.1).
8. **Restrictions of the Restrictions: The Untouchable Core of Rights** – Analysis of the 'essential content' (*noyau dur*, *Wesensgehaltsgarantie*) doctrine.

9. **Conflicts and Balancing Between Rights in Judicial Review** – Greek Council of State and Court of Cassation jurisprudence; comparison with centralised structures of constitutionality control (constitutional courts).
10. **Personal Liberty and Free Development of the Personality** – Article 5 GC examined doctrinally; contrasted with liberty guarantees in Italian and Portuguese constitutions.
11. **The Constitutional Protection of the Private Sphere: Privacy and Personality Rights** – Articles 9 and 9A GC; doctrinal tensions around data protection, personal autonomy, and comparative references to France and Germany.
12. **Social Rights and the Social Rule of Law in Comparative Context** – Social rights under Articles 16–22 GC; enforceability debates in doctrine and comparative constitutional practice.

7. Teaching Methods

- Lectures.
- Case law workshops.
- Student presentations and structured debate.
- Guided reading and legal reasoning exercises.

8. Assessment Methods

Method	Weight	Description
Final Written Exam	70%	Essay-type and case-based questions
Mid-Term Assignment/Presentation	20%	Individual or group-based
Participation and Engagement	10%	Constructive attendance, preparedness, contribution

Note: A minimum final exam score of 50% is required to pass.

9. A. Ethics

Students are reminded that all submitted work must comply with the University's academic [integrity policy](#). Plagiarism or unauthorised collaboration will result in disciplinary measures.

B. Course Policies

- Attendance is strongly encouraged.
- All assignments must be submitted on time via the designated platform.
- Special accommodations will be made for students with documented learning or health needs in accordance with university policy.

10. Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

- **Use in Teaching:** (e.g. digital slides, audiovisual aids, interactive tools like Mentimeter)
- **Use in Communication:** (e.g. E-learning platform, Zoom/Google Meet for office hours)
- **Digital Resources:** (e.g. online legal databases, podcasts, video lectures)

11. Bibliography

- Books/E-Books
Alkiviadou, N. (2025). *Hate Speech and the European Court of Human Rights (e-book)*. Taylor & Francis Group.
<https://search.lib.auth.gr/Record/1170246?sid=50267602>
Aroso Linhares, J. Manuel., & Atienza, Manuel. (2022). *Human dignity and the autonomy of law (e-book)*. Springer.
Becchi, P., & Mathis, K. (2019). Handbook of Human Dignity in Europe. In *Handbook of Human Dignity in Europe (e-book)*. Springer International Publishing.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-28082-0/COVER>

De Búrca, G. . (2021). *Reframing human rights in a turbulent era (e-book)*. Oxford University Press.

Fallon, R. H. (2019). The nature of constitutional rights: The invention and logic of strict judicial scrutiny. In *The Nature of Constitutional Rights: The Invention and Logic of Strict Judicial Scrutiny (e-book)*. Cambridge University Press.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108673549>

Fenton-Glynn, Claire. (2021). *Children and the European Court of Human Rights (e-book)*. Oxford University Press.

Gerards, Janneke. (2023). *Fundamental rights : the European and international dimension (e-book)*. Cambridge University Press.

Harris, D. J. (2023). Harris, O'Boyle & Warbrick: Law of the European Convention on Human Rights (5th ed.). Oxford University Press.

Hervey, T. K., & Kenner, J. (2003). Economic and social rights under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights: A legal perspective. Hart.

Morticelli, A. (2021a). Human Rights of Irregular Migrants in the European Union. *Human Rights of Irregular Migrants in the European Union (e-book)*.
<https://doi.org/10.5771/9783748925255>

Peers, S., Hervey, T. K., Kenner, J., & Ward, A. (2014). The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights: A commentary. Hart.

Repucci, Sarah., Slipowitz, Amy., O'Toole, Shannon., Aaron, Elisha., Barak, Matthew., Dent, Alexandra., Grothe, Cathryn., Meijer, David., Restifo, Alessandra., Roylance, Tyler., Uhlig, Lora., & Vepa, Manisha. (2023). *Freedom in the world 2022 : the annual survey of political rights and civil liberties (e-book)*. Freedom House ; Rowman & Littlefield.

Saul, B., Kinley, D., & Mowbray, J. (2014). The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Commentary, cases, and materials (1st ed.). Oxford University Press.

Schütze, R. (2021b). European constitutional law. Oxford University Press.

Smith, R. K. M. (2020). International human rights law (9th ed.). Oxford University Press.

Steiner, H. J. (2000). International human rights in context: Law, politics, morals: Text and materials (2nd ed., P. Alston, Ed.). Clarendon Press; Oxford University Press.

- Databases

Westlaw UK Academic	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
HeinOnline Academic Core and Kluwer Law International Journal Library	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Beck-online PREMIUM	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
O.U.P Oxford Public International Law	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
O.U.P Max Planck Encyclopedia of Comparative Constitutional Law	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Dalloz.fr	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
JURIS Zusatzmodul Hochschulen, BGB Staudinger Online	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Kluwer Law Online (30 journals)	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
IAReporter. Investment Arbitration Report	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Cambridge Core (Law)	https://www.cambridge.org/core/browse-subjects/law
EBSCO	https://research.ebsco.com/c/quc7ji/search/advanced/filters?autocorrect=y&isDashboardExpanded=true
ProQuest Central	https://www.proquest.com/central/topicpaths/AbiGlobal_business/0?accountid=8359#0

Springer link	https://link.springer.com/
Taylor & Francis e-books	https://www.taylorfrancis.com/search?subject=SC LW
Taylor & Francis e-journals	https://www.tandfonline.com/subjects/law
The Making of Modern Law: Legal Treatises 1800-1926 (Gale)	https://go.gale.com/ps/start.do?p=MOML&u=arist &cookieConsent=true&analyticsOptout=false&at y=ip
Wiley online Library	https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/action/showPublic ations?startPage=&ConceptID=85