

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Faculty of Law

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)

Course Syllabus

1. Course Information

- **Title:** Human Rights II
- **Code:** LLB21
- **ECTS:** 6
- **Hours per week:** 8
- **Academic Year:** 3rd
- **Teaching Period:** Winter Semester
- **Mode of Delivery:** Face-to-Face
- **Language of Instruction/Assessment:** English
- **Course Type:** Mandatory

2. Course Description

This course offers an advanced and thematically structured engagement with contemporary human rights protection, expanding upon the doctrinal foundations established in Human Rights I. It is divided into discrete units focusing on distinct yet interrelated fields of international, European, and transnational human rights law. The first thematic block examines the complex relationship between religion and security, beginning with models of church-state relations, followed by an in-depth study of the right to religious freedom and its permissible limitations under international and regional law. A second block addresses the universal human rights system, focusing on the United Nations framework and its primary instruments and bodies. The third section is devoted to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the jurisprudence of the

European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), highlighting interpretative principles and doctrinal developments. The course then turns to the European Social Charter, introducing students to the protection of social and economic rights under the Council of Europe system. The final units explore the role of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in the protection of human dignity during armed conflict, and the normative ambition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a globally coordinated framework with rights-based dimensions. Throughout the course, emphasis is placed on case law analysis, inter-regime coordination, and the evolving challenges of human rights protection in national and international legal contexts.

3. Keywords

Religious Freedom, European Court of Human Rights, European Social Charter, United Nations Human Rights System, International Humanitarian Law, Sustainable Development Goals

4. Learning Outcomes

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

1. **Describe** the main legal instruments, institutions, and mechanisms of international and regional human rights protection beyond the national level. (*Remembering*)
2. **Explain** the scope and limitations of selected civil, political, social, and cultural rights, with emphasis on religious freedom, equality, and social justice. (*Understanding*)
3. **Apply** relevant provisions of the ECHR, the European Social Charter, and UN treaties to concrete case studies involving individual and collective rights. (*Applying*)
4. **Analyse** the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights and the monitoring practice of the European Committee of Social Rights. (*Analysing*)
5. **Critically evaluate** the challenges of balancing fundamental rights with competing interests such as national security, public order, and cultural pluralism in contemporary human rights practice. (*Evaluating*)

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. **The United Nations Human Rights Framework: Norms, Institutions, and Mechanisms** – Exploring the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, core UN treaties, treaty bodies, and the Human Rights Council.
2. **The ICCPR and ICESCR: Civil, Political, Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights in Practice** – Analysing the normative content, implementation mechanisms, and interpretative challenges of the two foundational UN covenants.
3. **The European Convention on Human Rights: Architecture, Principles, and Doctrinal Influence** – A deep dive into the structure and interpretive principles of the ECHR, including proportionality, margin of appreciation, and living instrument doctrine.
4. **Selected ECHR Rights: Case Studies in Contemporary Jurisprudence** – Applying ECHR provisions to freedom of expression, right to privacy, and non-discrimination through analysis of leading ECtHR judgments.
5. **The European Court of Human Rights: Structure, Function, and Judicial Dialogue** – Institutional design, admissibility, subsidiarity, pilot judgments, and interactions with national courts.

6. **The European Social Charter: Content, Legal Nature, and Evolution** – Introduction to the Charter’s provisions, monitoring mechanisms, and its place in the Council of Europe system.
7. **Social Rights in Context: Housing, Health, and Labour under the European Social Charter** – Evaluating the practical protection of ESC rights and the role of the European Committee of Social Rights.
8. **Law and Religion: Models of State-Religion Relations in Comparative Constitutional Law** – Analysing secularism, establishment, and cooperation models with reference to Greece, France, Germany, and the US.
9. **Religious Freedom in International and Regional Human Rights Law** – Scope and limits of freedom of thought, conscience, and religion under the ICCPR, ECHR, and other frameworks.
10. **Religion, Security, and Rights Limitations: Balancing Liberty and Public Order** – Case studies on headscarf bans, anti-extremism measures, and the proportionality test in religion-related restrictions.
11. **The Sustainable Development Goals and Human Rights** – Normative convergence and tensions between global development objectives and international human rights standards.
12. **International Humanitarian Law and the Protection of Human Dignity in Armed Conflict** – Core principles of IHL, Geneva Conventions, and the interaction between IHL and human rights law in conflict zones.

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

Method	Weight	Description
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

Alston, P., & Goodman, R. (2012). *International human rights*. Oxford University Press.

Arnauld, A. von, Decken, K. von der, & Susi, M. (2020). *The Cambridge handbook of new human rights: Recognition, novelty, rhetoric*. Cambridge University Press.

Alkiviadou, Natalie. (2025). *Hate speech and the European Court of Human Rights (e-book)*. Routledge.

Bantekas, I., & Oette, L. (2016). *International human rights law and practice*. Cambridge University Press.

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Kippenberg, H. G. . (2021). *Regulating freedom of religion : from the United Nations to the European Court of Human Rights (e-book)*. Cambridge Scholars Publisher.

Kolb, R., & Gaggioli, G. (Eds.). (2013). *Research handbook on human rights and humanitarian law*. Edward Elgar.

McBeth, A., Nolan, J., & Rice, S. (2017). *The international law of human rights*. Oxford University Press.

Mégret, F., & Alston, P. (Eds.). (2020). *The United Nations and human rights: A critical appraisal* (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.

Moeckli, D., Shah, S., & Sivakumaran, S. (Eds.). (2022). *International human rights law* (4th ed.). Oxford University Press.

Moeckli, D., Sheeran, S., & Sivakumaran, S. (Eds.). (2018). *The human rights covenants at 50: Their past, present, and future*. Oxford University Press.

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Weissbrodt, D., Ní Aoláin, F., & Rumsey, M. (Eds.). (2014). Library of essays on international human rights: Vol. I. The development of international human rights law. Ashgate.

- 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&aty=ip
Wiley online Library	https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/action/showPublications?startPage=&ConceptID=85