



UNIVERZITET U SARAJEVU
CIS Centar za
interdisciplinarnu
studiju

SP2 Form

UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO – CENTER FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

“Prof. dr. Zdravko Grebo”

Course Description

Page 1/4

Course code: DHRFH101	Course name: FOUNDATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY		
Cycle: II	Study year: I	Semester: I	ECTS: 5
Study mode: Obligatory	Total hours: 60 Lectures: 52 Seminars: 4 Visits: 4		
Teaching participants	Leader: Prof. Asim Mujkić, University of Sarajevo Lecturers from partner Universities and Institutions		
Enrolment preconditions:	None		
Course goal(s):	<p>The main goal of the course is to present the basics of philosophical, theoretical and legal sources of democracy and human rights as well as to introduce the students into elementary understanding of the modern age democracy and human rights and their foundations through an interdisciplinary approach.</p> <p>It covers the theoretical, philosophical and legal foundations of human rights and democracy, from their birthplaces to the present day. Different disciplines of philosophy and different schools in relation to human rights are presented, alongside with the historical construction of the concept. The course also provides insight into the contemporary debate over the foundations of human rights, both civil and political as well as the economic and social right. Furthermore, it offers the basis and interpretation of the terminology used in the interpretation of human rights, as subject/object, politics–law–morality, individual/ collective, right/obligation-duty. The contractual theories and human rights concept relation is addressed, as well as the contemporary philosophy of human rights.</p> <p>Course also gives introduction into the modern concepts of democracy and human rights providing the students with elementary understanding of the modern age democracy and human rights. The modern age understanding of rights, theories of democracy; necessity and freedom; complexity of modern democracy and human rights as well as contemporary theories and practices of citizenship, as, paradoxically, the basis for human rights are critically examined. The course also offers the legal perspective through the introduction to the basics of the international human rights law as well as the first generation of rights - civil and political ones.</p>		
Thematic units:	1. PHILOSOPHY OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY		

Course Description

<i>(if needed, the weekly work schedule is established taking into account the organizational units' peculiarities)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW 3. FOUNDATIONS OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS 4. THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS 5. CONTEMPORARY THEORIES OF DEMOCRACY 6. THEORIES AND PRACTICES OF CITIZENSHIP: STATES, NATIONS, CITIZENS
Learning outcomes:	<p>KNOWLEDGE: Intellectual history of foundational concepts of human rights, human rights law, democracy and political theory; key paradoxes and problems that shaped self-understanding of modern political community and dominate contemporary discussions about moral and political foundations of global political commonwealth; Key critical perspectives regarding understanding human rights and democracy in the context of citizenship, nationalism and modern polity, basic theories supporting economic and social rights.</p> <p>COMPETENCIES: Critical understanding and analysis of contemporary problems regarding human rights and democracy globally and regionally; expertise in intellectual history of the development of the ideas of human rights, democracy, and political theory; open critical perspectivism.</p>
Teaching methods:	<p>Teaching methods include a combination of frontal lectures with interactive ways of learning, from discussions to group work and activities. In parallel with the lectures, the tutors of the ERMA program hold individual as well as group consultations with students as needed, for the purpose of selection of topics for seminar papers and student research. Within the course framework, depending on the interests of students, in cooperation with partner organizations, and the ERMA Alumni Network, the program regularly organizes thematic visits and seminars, for gaining knowledge from practitioners in the field of democracy and human rights.</p>
Knowledge assessment methods with grading system¹:	<p>Students are required to read the required literature before lectures, participate in discussions and planned activities, and attend lectures at least 80% of the total number of hours. The knowledge assessment consists of an academic paper (3000 to 4000 words) which carries 50% of the grade and a final oral exam which also carries 50% of the final grade. Submission of the academic paper is a condition for taking the exam. Finally, upon completing the course students have the opportunity to evaluate the course from the content to the way of teaching individual lecturers, and the course as a whole, through an online questionnaire.</p>
Literature²:	<p>Donati, Pierpaolo (2013). "Social Capital and Associative Democracy: a Relational Perspective", <i>Journal for the Theory of Social Behavior</i>, Vol.44, No1: 24-45.</p>

¹ The system of points and the grading criteria for each subject shall be defined by the organizational unit's Council prior to the commencement of the academic year in which the teaching activity is performed in accordance with the Article 64, paragraph 6 of the Sarajevo Canton Law on Higher Education.

² Acting on behalf of the higher education institution as a public institution, the Senate or organizational unit Council respectively, shall define the mandatory and recommended textbooks and manuals list as well as the other recommended literature as a basis for preparing and taking the examination by rendering a special Decision which is to be published on their websites before the start of the academic year in accordance with the Article 56, paragraph 3 of the Sarajevo Canton Law on Higher Education.

Course Description

Gillens, Martin and Page, Benjamin I. (2014). "Testing Theories of American Politics: Elites, Interest Groups, and Average Citizens", Perspectives on politics, Vol.12, No.3: 564-581.

Habermas, J., "The European Nation-State: On the Past and Future of Sovereignty and Citizenship," Public Culture 10:2 (1998): 397-416, 404

Hannah Arendt: "The Decline of the Nation-State and the End of the Rights of Man", Hannah Arendt, The Origins of Totalitarianism, San Diego, New York, London: A Harvest Book, Harcourt Brace & Co., 1976; pp.: 267-304;

Ilias Bandekas and Lutz Oette, International Human Rights - Law and Practice, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press 2016 (2nd ed.), Chapter 4 "The United Nations Charter system", pp. 154- 191, and Chapter 5 "The UN human rights treaty system", pp. 192-234

Isin, E. (2009), 'Citizenship in Flux: The Figure of Activist Citizen', Subjectivity, 29: 367-88.

Joppke, Christian. "Transformation of Citizenship: Status, Right, Identity". Citizenship Studies, Vol. 11, No.1, February, 2007:37-48.

Judith Butler: "Precarious Life and the Ethics of Cohabitation", Judith Butler, Notes Toward a Performative Theory of Assembly, Cambridge, London: Harvard University Press, 2015; pp.: 99-122.

MacDonald, Margaret. „Natural Rights“ in Theories of Rights, Waldron, Jeremy (ed.), Oxford University Press, 1992;

Michael Ignatieff: "Human Rights as Politics", The Tanner Lectures on Human Values, Delivered at Princeton University, April 4–7, 2000; pp.: 287-319;

Nozick, R. Moral Constraints and Distributive Justice

Rawls, J. Justice as Fairness: Political not Metaphysical

Richard Rorty: „Justice as a larger loyalty“ in Rorty, Philosophy as Cultural Politics; Philosophical Papers Vol. 4; Cambridge University Press, 2007; pp.: 42-55;

Sen, A. Poverty and Famines: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation, Oxford, 1998

Shue, H. Basic Rights, Introduction and chapter 1, pp.5-34

Štiks, I. (2013), 'A laboratory of citizenship: shifting conceptions of citizenship in Yugoslavia and post-Yugoslav states', in J. Shaw and I. Štiks (eds), Citizenship after Yugoslavia, Abingdon: Routledge

Course Description