

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

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| <b>Academic year:</b> 2026/2027                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                      |
| <b>University:</b> Comenius University Bratislava                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                      |
| <b>Faculty:</b> Faculty of Law                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                      |
| <b>Course ID:</b><br>PraF.KUP/EnM17-3005/26                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Course title:</b><br>Human Rights |
| <b>Educational activities:</b><br><b>Type of activities:</b> lecture / seminar<br><b>Number of hours:</b><br><b>per week:</b> 1 / 2 <b>per level/semester:</b> 13 / 26<br><b>Form of the course:</b> on-site learning, combined                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                      |
| <b>Number of credits:</b> 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                      |
| <b>Recommended semester:</b> 2., 6.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                      |
| <b>Educational level:</b> I., II.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                      |
| <b>Prerequisites:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                      |
| <b>Course requirements:</b><br>Written assignment / case presentation / seminar participation and ongoing completion of written tasks (20%).<br>Final Assessment: Written examination – theoretical questions and analysis of a model case (80%).<br>Grading Scale: A (1) = 91–100%; B (1.5) = 81–90%; C (2) = 73–80%; D (2.5) = 66–72%; E (3) = 60–65%; FX (fail) = 0–59%.<br>During the examination, students may use all available sources of legal information, in particular unannotated legislation, commentaries, case law, legal literature, and legal information systems.<br>Scale of assessment (preliminary/final): 20/80                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                      |
| <b>Learning outcomes:</b><br>a) Knowledge: Upon completion of the course, the student possesses comprehensive knowledge in the field of human rights (fundamental rights), with particular emphasis on the European dimension of these values, including relevant case law of the European Court of Human Rights. The student understands the significance and importance of civil and political rights, as well as the mechanisms governing their application and permissible limitations. The student is also familiar with the principles and procedural rules governing proceedings before the European Court of Human Rights and the United Nations Human Rights Committee, including the relevant jurisprudence of the ECtHR in this field.<br>b) Skills: The student is able to interpret and apply legal norms relating to human rights and is capable of preparing and analysing legal problems through a human rights perspective, supported by structured and well-reasoned argumentation.<br>c) Responsibility and Autonomy:<br>The student is capable of independent critical thinking and of articulating well-founded positions on issues related to human rights (fundamental rights), supported by relevant legal arguments and jurisprudence. |                                      |
| <b>Class syllabus:</b><br>1. The Theoretical Foundations of Human Rights<br>-The concept of human rights and fundamental freedoms: meaning, characteristics, and classification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                      |

- Human dignity
- Limitation and interpretation of rights and freedoms
- 2. National and supranational dimensions of human rights protection
  - The United Nations System of Human Rights Protection
  - The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
  - The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
  - Protection mechanisms, institutions, and basic procedural principles
- 3. The European Convention on Human Rights
  - Characteristics and historical development
  - Fundamental procedural principles
  - The European Court of Human Rights (composition and jurisdiction)
  - The Committee of Ministers (competences)
- 4. The Right to Life
  - Substantive and procedural dimensions of the right to life
  - The standard of “absolute necessity”
- 5. Prohibition of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
  - Nature of the right and elements of Article 3 ECHR
  - Conditions of detention, deportation, interrogation, and other practical aspects
- 6. The Right to Liberty and Security
  - Presumptions and requirements under ECtHR case law
  - Substantive and procedural aspects of Article 5 ECHR
- 7. The Right to a Fair Trial
  - Nature and scope of application
  - Independence and impartiality of the tribunal
  - Civil and criminal dimensions
- 8. The Right to Respect for Private and Family Life
  - Concept of privacy and family life
  - Evolution of the right and its application to specific situations
- 9. Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion
  - Nature and scope of the right
  - Manifestation of religion (beliefs, dress, proselytism)
  - State neutrality and the relationship between state and religion
- 10. Freedom of Expression
  - Importance and categories of expression
  - Scope of protection (content and persons concerned)
  - Responsibility and permissible limitations
- 11. Freedom of Assembly and Association
  - Content of both rights; peaceful and spontaneous assemblies
  - Associations, trade unions, and political parties
- 12. Prohibition of Discrimination
  - Nature of the prohibition under the Convention
  - Differential treatment and types of discrimination
  - Practical application of non-discrimination principles
- 13. The Right to Property
  - Content and significance of property rights
  - The three rules of property protection under the Convention
  - Restrictions and expropriation
- 14. Protection of Human Rights within the European Union
  - Case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union

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| -The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| <b>Recommended literature:</b><br>JACOBS, WHITE, OVEY,: The European Convention on Human Rights. 6. vydanie. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014<br>GREER, S.: The European Convention on Human Rights: Achievements, Problems and Prospects. Cambridge University Press, 2006<br>JANIS, W., M. – KAY, R.,S. – BRADLEY, A.,W.: European Human Rights Law, Text and Materials. Third Edition, 2008<br>KELLER, H. – STONE-SWEET, A. (eds.): A Europe of Rights. Oxford University Press, 2008<br>LETSAS, G.: A Theory of Interpretation of the European Convention on Human Rights, Oxford University Press, 2008<br>REID, K.: A Practitioner's Guide to the European Convention on Human Rights. 3rd Edition, Sweet & Maxwell, 2008 |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| <b>Languages necessary to complete the course:</b><br>English                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| <b>Notes:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| <b>Past grade distribution</b><br>Total number of evaluated students: 0                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | ABS | B   | C   | D   | E   | FX  |
| 0,0                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 |
| <b>Lecturers:</b> prof. JUDr. Livia Trellová, PhD., prof. JUDr. Tomáš Lálík, PhD., Mgr. Diana Bernáthová, Mgr. Vincent Bujňák, PhD.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| <b>Last change:</b> 19.03.2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| <b>Approved by:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |     |     |     |     |     |     |