

Academic Tutoring - Foundations of Human Rights

Summer Module
OLive-UP 2020

Seminar Leader: Dr. Zoe Sutherland

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Course dates: 2 June to 21 August 2020

Course Schedule: Self-study, ALGs, seminars and individual consultations

Office Hours: by appointment

Credits: n/a

Grading: Pass/Fail

Course Description

The Academic Tutoring Summer Module course is a foundations course, ahead of further introduction in Module 1 and more advanced topics in Module 2. The course will support students in their independent study of the discipline and subjects to which they will make Masters applications. Learning goals and syllabi will be tailored to individual students' needs and background in the subject.

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the European regional human rights framework, in particular the Council of Europe (CoE), its most important human rights instrument - the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) - and its redress forum - the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). The secondary aim of the course is to explore the research interests of the participants within this European context. The course thus covers (1) the ECHR and in particular ECHR Articles 3, 5, and 10, (2) the admissibility of complaints to the ECtHR and (3) the extraterritorial applicability of the ECHR.

This course has been designed in light of the Covid-19 online teaching conditions. All materials will be posted in the Google classroom. All meetings will take place online. Written assignments should be handed in via Google classroom.

Learning Outcomes

- Students gain confidence in reading and understanding academic texts about human rights, progressing clearly to the level expected of a final year Bachelors student.
- Students gain knowledge of human rights vocabulary in English.
- Students gain knowledge of some of the foundations of IHRL, namely absolute and limited rights, the European Convention on Human Rights and its jurisdiction.
- Students gain and improve key skills in close reading and summarising case law and presenting written arguments on one or both sides of jurisprudential debates.
- Students improve independent study and seminar skills.

Class Description and Student Requirements

Students will be required to dedicate 3 hours per week to independent study.

Students will be required to complete 3 key assignments over the duration of the Summer Module. These will be either 1.5 page response papers (or equivalent). Students will also receive shorter assignments tailored to individual progress and needs.

During each month of the summer module we will work through the following 5-step process; (1) reading > (2) alternative learning group (ALG) (Dalal, Ibrahim, Sayed) > (3) seminar (Dalal, Ibrahim, Sayed, Zoe) > (4) individual consultations > (5) writing. To pass the course, students must actively participate in and complete each of the 5 steps in June, July and August.

Our course book is Andrew Clapham, *Human Rights: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2015). All other readings will be provided.

Schedule

JUNE			
Reading	ALG	-	-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OLIVE Access 'Introduction to Studying HR in English' syllabus. • Clapham, pp. 1-6. 	Special session: discussion of OLIVE Access course with Q&A. Date to be confirmed by students.	-	-
JUNE			

Reading	ALG	Seminar and individual consultations	Writing (due 30 June)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statue of the Council of Europe (excerpt) • F. Benoit-Rohmer and H. Klebes, Council of Europe Law: Toward a Pan-European Legal Area (Council of Europe Publishing, 2005) • The ECHR • Clapham, Ch. 4 'Torture', pp. 83-97. • <i>Omar Othman v UK</i> 	Date to be confirmed by students.	Tuesday, 23 June at 11am, consultations directly after	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case summary <i>Omar Othman v UK</i> • What types of rights are protected in the ECHR? Describe which rights might be limited in peace time and which rights cannot be restricted under any circumstances?
JULY			
Reading	ALG	Seminar and individual consultations	Writing (due 28 July)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Conditions of Admissibility' in B. Rainey, E. Wicks, C. Ovey, The European Convention on Human Rights, seventh edition (OUP, 2017), 28-47. • Clapham, Ch. 5 'Deprivations of Life and Liberty', pp. 98-109 . • <i>Al-Skeini v UK</i> 	Date to be confirmed by students.	Monday, 13 July at 11am, consultations directly after	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case summary <i>Al-Skeini v UK</i> • Describe the ECtHR's approach to state jurisdiction on the basis of the <i>Al-Skeini</i> case. What is the scope of state responsibility? In general, under what circumstances is the Court inclined to establish jurisdiction?
AUGUST			
Reading	ALG	Seminar and individual consultations	Writing (due 25 August)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clapham, Ch. 6 'Balancing rights - free speech and privacy', pp. 110-121. ● Research on a human rights challenge in your country of origin or residence. 	Date to be confirmed by students.	Tuesday, 18 August at 11am, consultations directly after	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Describe a human rights challenge in your country (or place of residence) from the past year.
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Attendance

You are expected to attend ALL consultations. In cases of absence caused by illness, you must inform your instructor and the Program Director in advance of the scheduled consultation via email. Students are expected to be proactive and make up for any work missed.

Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. You are expected to follow the university's code of academic integrity at all times throughout the course. Any work you submit must be your own original work. Make sure that you properly reference all the sources you use (e.g. books, journals, newspaper articles, websites, etc.). Cases of academic misconduct (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) in which you fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section III Academic Misconduct.

Policy on Late Submission of Papers

As per Student Handbook guidelines, assignments that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). Assignments that are more than 24 hours late may be rejected for grading, particularly if the explanation offered for the delay is not satisfactory. If a late assignment is accepted for grading, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade higher than C. Thereafter, you will receive a failing grade for the assignment.