



College of Europe  
Collège d'Europe

Brugge



Natolin

## ECTS CARD

### STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

### YEAR

2022-2023

### COURSE TITLE

**Human Rights in International Politics**

### SEMESTER

2

### COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

MILLS Kurt

### ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

BRESKAYA Maria

### COURSE TYPE

Specialist Course

### MAJOR(S)

EUW

### ECTS CREDITS

4

### TEACHING HOURS

20

### INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

80

### TUTORIAL(S)

### COEFFICIENT

1

### LANGUAGE(S)

EN

### COURSE OBJECTIVE

This course will investigate the role of human rights in global politics today. The course will partially be framed by the debate over the balance between human rights and state sovereignty. It will examine different approaches to conceptualizing human rights, identify the main elements of the global human rights regime, analyse how state preferences and characteristics shape the form and substance of human rights, assess the extent to which human rights constrain the autonomy of states, explore how human rights affect the actions of state and non-state actors, and examine approaches to protecting human rights. It will address both empirical and normative concerns—both the is and the ought. It will examine a variety of issues related to human rights, such as universality, genocide, refugees and armed conflict, and how the international community responds to them.

### COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

- To examine critically different approaches to conceptualizing human rights.
- To identify the main elements of the global human rights regime.
- To analyse how state preferences and characteristics shape the form and substance of human rights.
- To assess the extent to which human rights constrain the autonomy of states.
- To explore how human rights affect the actions of state and non-state actors.
- To consider implications of human rights for the legitimacy of governance.
- To examine different approaches to protecting human rights.

### RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

None.

## TEACHING METHOD(S)

Teaching methods will include lectures, seminar discussions, debates, class presentations, and group work.

## ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

A 24-hour take-home exam (80%) plus class participation/presentation (20%).

The College of Europe reserves the right to change the delivery and assessment of the course in case of circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the College (*force majeure*). Any communication from the campus administration in this regard takes precedence over the information provided in this ECTS card.

Retake examinations, i.e., exams passed in the second examination session, will have the same format as those taken during the first exam session. The only exception concerns oral exams, which are replaced in the second exam session by written exams. When a student takes an examination during the second session, the final mark for the course is based solely on the result of the retake examination. No other element of evaluation which would have been taken into consideration in the calculation of the final mark during the first examination session will be considered in the second session.

## COURSE CONTENTS

- Situating Human Rights in International Relations
- The Content of Human Rights
- The Human Rights Regime
- Human Rights and Non-State Actors
- Refugees
- Humanitarianism
- Accountability for Human Rights Violations
- Humanitarian Intervention/Responsibility to Protect

## COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Key texts:

- David Forsythe, *Human Rights in International Relations*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., Cambridge: University of Cambridge Press, 2018.
- David Kennedy, *The Dark Sides of Virtue: Reassessing International Humanitarianism*, Princeton: University of Princeton Press, 2004.

Gil Loescher, *Refugees: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press, 2021.