



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN PRACTICE	

Lecturer(s)	Department(s)
Coordinator: assoc. prof. dr. Donatas Murauskas Other(s): -	Vilnius University, Faculty of Law, Department of Public Law Saulėtekio av. 9, Building 1, 405 Room, LT-10222, Vilnius Phone (8 5) 2366175, e-mail: vtkatedra@tf.vu.lt

Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)
Second	Compulsory (track – International Law and Human Rights)

Mode of delivery	Course unit delivery period	Language(s) of instruction
Face-to-face	2 (spring) semester	English

Requirements for students	
Pre-requisites: none	Co-requisites (if any): none

Number of credits allocated	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
5	133	32	101

Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competences to be developed		
<p>To develop in-depth understanding of practical application of international human rights protection mechanisms. The course aims at training abilities to indicate whether the factual situation is under jurisdiction of a human rights protection mechanism, to distinguish between different venues of human rights protection, to systematically assess admissibility criteria while applying to the human rights institution; to critically evaluate procedural specifics of various human rights tribunals, and to analytically discuss actual implications of a decision of the human rights tribunal.</p>		
Learning outcomes of the course unit (module)	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Students will be aware of the major international and regional human rights protection mechanisms around the globe and is able to coherently define fundamentals of the procedure before these institutions, assessing relevant legal norms and doctrines.	An interactive method of teaching during lectures and seminars (oral presentations, the analysis of problematic issues, group discussions, case study), individual studies (analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature).	Qualitative discussion on a topic; tests and open-ended assignments; final written exam (case study).
Students will be able to systemically evaluate if the case falls under the jurisdiction of a particular human rights protection mechanism and is able to specify peculiarities how to bring a case under the scrutiny of this institution.	An interactive method of teaching during lectures and seminars (oral presentations, the analysis of problematic issues, group discussions, case study), individual studies (analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature).	Qualitative discussion on a topic; tests and open-ended assignments; final written exam (case study).
Students will be able to identify major inadmissibility criteria to be fulfilled to apply to international and regional human rights institution, properly applies relevant legal norms and case-law.	An interactive method of teaching during lectures and seminars (oral presentations, the analysis of problematic issues, group discussions, case study), individual studies (analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature).	Qualitative discussion on a topic; tests and open-ended assignments; final written exam (case study).

Students will be able to thoroughly analyse the implications of a case adjudicated before a human rights tribunal.	An interactive method of teaching during lectures and seminars (oral presentations, the analysis of problematic issues, group discussions, case study), individual studies (analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature).	Qualitative discussion on a topic; tests and open-ended assignments; final written exam (case study).
Students will be able to take critical (and self-critical) approach, orally or in written to provide their opinion in a consistent and argumentative manner and to assess the current position assumed by others, taking into account the principles of non-discrimination, respect to cultural differences and moral principles.	An interactive method of teaching during seminars (oral presentations, the analysis of problematic issues, group discussions, case study), individual studies (analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature).	Qualitative discussion on a topic; tests and open-ended assignments; final written exam (case study).
Students will be able to plan and manage learning process, enhance acquired knowledge and abilities independently, <i>inter alia</i> , to use legal information data bases and other sources, to select relevant theoretical and practical material, and to substantiate their own conclusions by the achievements of jurisprudence.	An interactive method of teaching during seminars (oral presentations, the analysis of problematic issues, group discussions, case study), individual studies (analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature).	Qualitative discussion on a topic; tests and open-ended assignments.

Topics	Contact hours						Self-study work: time and assignments		Assignments
	Lectures	Consultations	Seminars	Exercises	Laboratory work	Internship/work	Contact hours	Self-study hours	
1. Introduction of the course.	1						1		
2. Why do states comply with international human rights obligations?	1		1				2	8	Reading assignments before the class. Preparation for tests/ open-ended assignments during the class. Preparation for discussion.
3. International and regional human rights institutions.	3		1				4	16	Reading assignments before the class. Preparation for tests/ open-ended assignments during the class. Preparation for discussion.
4. Inter-state applications v. individual applications to international human rights institutions.	3		1				4	12	Reading assignments before the class. Preparation for tests/ open-ended assignments during the class. Preparation for discussion. Case-study.
5. National application of international human rights standards.	2		1				3	8	Reading assignments before the class. Preparation for tests/ open-ended assignments during the class. Preparation for discussion. Case-study.
6. The role of NGO's, human rights defenders. Human rights strategies.	3		1				4	13	Reading assignments before the class. Preparation for tests/ open-ended assignments during the class. Preparation for discussion. Case-study.
7. International and regional human rights institutions: discussing admissibility criteria.	3		1				4	13	Reading assignments before the class. Preparation for tests/ open-ended assignments during the class. Preparation for discussion. Case-study.
8. Procedure at international and regional human rights institutions.	5		1				6	18	Reading assignments before the class. Preparation for tests/ open-ended assignments during the class. Preparation for discussion. Case-study.

											assignments during the class. Preparation for discussion. Case-study.
9.	Executing decision of international human rights institutions.	3		1					4	13	Reading assignments before the class. Preparation for tests/ open-ended assignments during the class. Preparation for discussion. Case-study.
Total		24		8					32	101	

Assessment strategy	Weight, percentage	Assessment period	Assessment criteria
Case-studies, discussions	30	During semester	Presenting a view based on assigned material; active discussion of assigned material and cases; comprehensive and critical assessment of issues, raising important questions, discussing them with colleagues by providing clear arguments; participation in a prof. lead discussion (Socratic method). Knowledge will be assessed based on student's ability to interpret the doctrine, relevant legal norms, and recent case law in the discipline, to identify legal challenges and suggest viable solutions in problematic areas.
Tests, open-ended assignments	20	During semester	Responding to 5 written tests (each test is graded individually on a 10-point scale. The final value for each test is 0.1 points of the test grade. The maximum mark for 5 tests combined is 0,5) and 2 written open-ended assignments (case studies) (each worth 0,75 points out of the final grade. The maximum mark for 2 written assignments combined is 1,5).
Written examination	50	At the end of the course	Written examination consists of two case studies (open questions) - 5 points out of the final grade (2.5 – each open question), which is 10 points. The assessment of case studies will be based on the student's capability to write in a logical, clear and well-structured manner, to support his/her view with the relevant legal provisions and case-law, student's own reasonable and convincing argumentation.

Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing place and house or web link
Compulsory reading				
Lucian Bojin	2013	<i>Chapter 6. Challenges facing the European Court of Human Rights: Fragmentation of the international order, division in Europe and the right to individual petition. In The European Court of Human Rights and its Discontents</i>		Elgar Publishing
Simon Walker	2016	<i>Chapter 16. International Human Rights Law: Towards Pluralism or Harmony? The Opportunities and Challenges of Coexistence: The View from the UN Treaty Bodies. In Towards Convergence in International Human Rights Law: Approaches of Regional and International Systems, edited by Carla M. Buckley, et al.</i>		BRILL
Dinah Shelton	2015	<i>Remedies in International Human Rights Law</i>		Oxford University Press
Ilias Bantekas; Lutz Oette	2020	<i>International Human Rights Law and Practice</i>		Cambridge University Press
		Cases of international and regional human rights tribunals		
Optional reading				
Geir Ulfstein; Isabella Risini	2020	<i>Inter-State Applications under the European Convention on Human Rights: Strengths and Challenges</i>		EJIL Talk blog

Reto Walther	2020	<i>Procedural Deference at Strasbourg: A Trend Calling for a New Admissibility Criterion?</i>		EJIL Talk blog
Donatas Murauskas	2024	<i>Non-compliance with the European Court of Human Rights judgments: delineating the features of Central and Eastern European legal identity. In Law, culture and identity in Central and Eastern Europe: a comparative engagement.</i> Ed. by C. Cerceş, A. Mercescu and M. Michał Sadowski		London : Routledge; Taylor & Francis Group
Donatas Murauskas	2021	<i>Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights: Lithuanian Case</i>		Springer
Luis López Guerra	2017	<i>Dialogues between the Strasbourg Court and National Courts. In Judicial Dialogue and Human Rights.</i> Ed. Amrei Müller.		Cambridge University Press