



INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW SUMMER SCHOOL SYLLABUS



GENERAL DATA

Date:	July 4 - 18, 2026
Time:	Classes are held between 9:00 -12:15
Location:	University of Pécs, Faculty of Law
ECTS credits:	6
Type of the course:	Seminar
Course leader (with availabilities):	Prof. Dr. Ágoston Mohay mohay.agoston@ajk.pte.hu

COURSE OVERVIEW

Description: This course explores contemporary challenges facing international human rights law. Human rights law has become an essential pillar of international and European Union law. Nevertheless, many challenges to the safeguarding and promotion of human rights remain, affecting various dimensions of the multilevel human rights framework. Challenges arise from diverse factors such as technological development, policy goals, social and other crises, armed conflicts, etc. In the summer school, participants will delve into critical issues, debates, and evolving trends within the field. Through a combination of lectures, case studies, and discussions, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the complexities and nuances inherent in the current landscape of international human rights.

Prerequisites: Basic knowledge of international law is recommended.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Understand Key Concepts:** Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of fundamental concepts and principles in international human rights law.
- Critically Analyse Current Challenges:** Analyse and critically evaluate contemporary challenges, dilemmas, and debates in the field of international human rights.
- Apply Legal Frameworks:** Apply relevant legal frameworks and conventions to real-world scenarios, showcasing the ability to navigate complex issues.
- Effective Communication:** Communicate complex legal arguments and analyses effectively.
- Analytical Skills:** Develop research and analysis skills to explore and assess primary and secondary sources related to international human rights issues.

The course includes the following topics:

- The Current System of International Human Rights Law
- The Role of the Council of Europe in Protecting Human Rights
- The European Court of Human Rights
- Protection of Fundamental Rights in the EU
- The Accession of the EU to the European Convention on Human Rights



- International Protection of Minority Rights
- Data protection as a Human Right
- International and European Data Protection in Action
- Environmental Rights as Human Rights
- Environmental Rights in Action
- Genetic Engineering and the Visions of Enhancement in the Past and Present
- Human Rights in Armed Conflict
- EU Criminal Cooperation versus Fundamental Rights?
- Algorithmic decision-making in the Light of Human Rights
- Trafficking in Human Beings as a threat to Human Rights
- The Right to Good Administration in the Digital Age
- Counterterrorism and State Surveillance versus the Right to Privacy?

Materials:

- Materials will primarily be distributed by the lecturers during the summer school.
- For a fundamental overview, see: Jack Donnelly, Daniel J. Whelan: International Human Rights (Routledge, 2020) and Jan Wouters et al.: The European Union and Human Rights. Law and Policy (Oxford, 2020)

Assessment:

- Students will be assessed based on a multiple-choice questionnaire (test) at the end of the second week. Tests will be graded on a scale of 1 (insufficient) to 5 (excellent).

Schedule:

- See attached Excel sheet for the draft schedule.



TITLE OF THE CLASS: The Right to Good Administration in the Digital Age

CLASS LECTURER:	PROF. DR ADRIÁN FÁBIÁN, PROFESSOR
FACULTY/SCHOOL:	FACULTY OF LAW

Description and aims:

The relationship between public administration and citizens has always been a crucial issue in public law. The transition from classical to digital administration alters the rights, duties, and opportunities of citizens. The course provides an overview of these rights and the role of the modern (good) public administration.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

Fundamental knowledge, skills about the theory of good (public) administration and the exercise and content of the right to good administration.

Suggested reading:

- Jill Wakefield: The Right to Good Administration. Kluwer Law International. 2007.
https://www.academia.edu/62763569/The_Right_To_Good_Administration
- Agnė Andrijauskaitė, Ulrich Stelkens (eds): Good Administration and the Council of Europe Law, Principles, and Effectiveness. OUP Oxford. 2020

TITLE OF THE CLASS: International Protection of Minority Rights

CLASS LECTURER:	PROF. DR ELISABETH SÁNDOR-SZALAY, PROFESSOR
FACULTY/SCHOOL:	FACULTY OF LAW

Description and aims:

The course aims to outline the system of international protection of national minorities, covering the international legal frameworks, institutional structures, and practices available at the universal and regional levels, primarily in Europe. The legal cases to be examined are current issues that shed light on the legal interpretation practices of the courts in Strasbourg and Luxembourg.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

The course prepares participants to understand and interpret the rights of national minorities in a complex manner, as an integral part of human rights. It helps them navigate the international legal protection system for national minorities and assists them in recognizing situations that violate their rights. At the same time, they gain knowledge about how to respond to violations of rights.



Suggested reading:

- Julie RINGELHEIM: Minority Rights in a Time of Multiculturalism – The Evolving Scope of the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities, *Human Rights Law Review* 10:1(2010), 99-128,
<https://doi.org/10.1093/hrlr/ngp038>
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228149099_Minority_Rights_in_a_Time_of_Multiculturalism-The_Evolving_Scope_of_the_Framework_Convention_on_the_Protection_of_National_Minorities
- Elisabeth SÁNDOR-SZALAY (2022): 'International Law in the Service of Minority Protection—Hard Law, Soft Law, and a Little Practice' in Raisz, A. (ed.) *International Law From a Central European Perspective*. Miskolc-Budapest: Central European Academic Publishing. pp. 157–179.
https://doi.org/10.54171/2022.ar.ilfcec_8
https://real.mtak.hu/155375/1/CEA_LSCE_PhD_Raisz_InternationalLaw_CH7.pdf

TITLE OF THE CLASS: Human Rights Protection under the Council of Europe with special attention to the European Court of Human Rights

CLASS LECTURER:	BENCE KIS KELEMEN PHD, SENIOR LECTURER
FACULTY/SCHOOL:	FACULTY OF LAW

Description and aims:

The course deals with the Council of Europe, a regional international organization dedicated to human rights protection. The first lecture of the course introduces students to the role and organization of the Council of Europe and speaks about the major international treaties adopted under the aegis of the organization. Subsequently, the second lecture dives into the European Convention on Human Rights and its permanent international court, the European Court of Human Rights. The lecture introduces students to the structure and key provisions of the Convention and the organization and main points of an individual application procedure before the Court.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

By completing the course, participants will be able to:

1. Explain the mandate, institutional structure, and human rights protection mechanisms of the Council of Europe, including its key treaties and monitoring bodies.
2. Analyze the European Convention on Human Rights by identifying its core rights, obligations, and interpretative principles, as well as the role of the European Court of Human Rights in ensuring compliance by member states.
3. Assess the individual application procedure before the European Court of Human Rights, including admissibility criteria, procedural stages, and the legal significance of the Court's judgments.



Suggested reading:

- [European Convention on Human Rights](#)
- [Practical Guide on Admissibility Criteria](#)
- [Schabas, W. A.: The European Convention on Human Rights. A Commentary. OUP, 2015.](#)

TITLE OF THE CLASS: Protection of Human Rights in Extraordinary Circumstances

CLASS LECTURER:	BENCE KIS KELEMEN PHD, SENIOR LECTURER
FACULTY/SCHOOL:	FACULTY OF LAW

Description and aims:

The course deals with the protection of human rights in extraordinary circumstances, namely in times of war and the threat of terrorism. The first lecture deals with armed conflicts and the law applicable in armed conflicts (international humanitarian law) and its relationship with human rights law. The lectures introduce students to the main theories regarding the applicability of human rights norms in armed conflicts which will be illustrated with relevant case law on the topic. The second issue deals with counterterrorism and various state action in connection with this activity, such as mass surveillance. The lecture introduces students to the concept of counterterrorism and state surveillance and highlights how certain rights, for example the right to privacy applies in these circumstances. Relevant case law is used to illustrate the points advocated.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

By completing the course, participants will be able to:

1. Explain the legal frameworks governing the protection of human rights in armed conflict, including the relationship and interaction between international humanitarian law and international human rights law.
2. Critically assess the applicability and limitations of human rights norms in situations of armed conflict and counterterrorism, with reference to key doctrinal approaches and relevant international and regional case law.
3. Analyse state counterterrorism measures, including surveillance practices, in light of human rights standards, particularly the right to privacy, and evaluate their lawfulness, necessity, and proportionality.

Suggested reading:

- [The Geneva Conventions and their Commentaries](#)
- [International legal protection of human rights in armed conflict. UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. 2011.](#)
- [Pfisterer, V M.: The Right to Privacy—A Fundamental Right in Search of Its Identity: Uncovering the CJEU's Flawed Concept of the Right to Privacy. German Law Journal 20, no. 5 \(2019\): 722–33.](#)



TITLE OF THE CLASS: Environmental Rights as Human Rights, Environmental Rights in Action

CLASS LECTURER:	DR ATTILA PÁNOVICS, SENIOR LECTURER
FACULTY/SCHOOL:	FACULTY OF LAW

Description and aims:

In light of the 2022 UN General Assembly's recognition of the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, the course provides a thought-provoking analysis of the relationship between human rights and the environment. It goes far beyond presenting merely the issues related to a substantive right to the environment; it brings together an overview of various aspects of the current status and practice of procedural environmental rights.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to acquire knowledge about the development of environmental rights and understand the complex relationship between human rights and the environment. They will be able to evaluate the relevance of human rights in protecting the environment.

Suggested reading:

- Hendrik Schoukens - Farah Bouquelle (eds.): *The Right to a Healthy Environment in and Beyond the Anthropocene*, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2024
- Jerzy Jendroska - Magdalena Bar (eds.): *Procedural Environmental Rights: Principle X in Theory and Practice*, Intersentia Ltd, 2017

TITLE OF THE CLASS: Genetic Engineering and Human Enhancement: Visions Past and Present

CLASS LECTURER:	JUDIT ZELLER, PHD, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
FACULTY/SCHOOL:	FACULTY OF LAW

Description and aims:

This course explores how ideas of improving human life through biology have evolved from early eugenic movements to contemporary genetic engineering and CRISPR technologies. Students examine historical, scientific, and philosophical debates about enhancement, focusing on how changing visions of "better humans" reflect broader social, political, and ethical concerns. By connecting past ambitions with present possibilities, the course encourages critical reflection on the future of human self-design.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the historical development of ideas about human enhancement.
2. Analyze key scientific concepts behind genetic technologies.



3. Evaluate ethical, social, and political arguments for and against human enhancement.
4. Develop well-reasoned written and oral arguments about the implications of genetic engineering for society.

Suggested reading:

- Jennifer A. Doudna and Samuel H. Sternberg (2017): *A Crack In Creation: Gene Editing and the Unthinkable Power to Control Evolution*. HarperCollins.
- WHO Expert Advisory Committee (2021): *Developing Global Standards for Governance and Oversight of Human Genome Editing. Human Genome Editing: recommendations*. WHO
- Henry T. Greely (2021): *CRISPR People: The Science and Ethics of Editing Humans*. MIT Press.
- Leifan Wang, Xiaohui Liang, Weiwen Zhang (2022): Genome editing and human rights: Implications of the UNGPs. *Biosafety and Health*, 4(6), Pp. 386-391, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bsheal.2022.10.002>.
- Other published court decisions, professional opinions, and recommendations

TITLE OF THE CLASS: EU Criminal Cooperation versus fundamental rights?

CLASS LECTURER:	ISTVÁN SZIJÁRTÓ, SENIOR LECTURER
FACULTY/SCHOOL:	FACULTY OF LAW

Description and aims:

The course takes into account the long-persisting issue in EU criminal cooperation that is the efficiency of cooperation at the expense of the protection of fundamental rights. Through the analysis of the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union, the course introduces major issues in connection with the protection of fundamental rights in criminal cooperation, and also sheds light on the evolving legal framework that increases the protection of fundamental rights in EU criminal law.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

The objective of the course is to familiarise students with basic principles applicable in the field of judicial cooperation in criminal matters such as the principle of mutual recognition and the principle of mutual trust. Additionally, it aims to familiarise students with the importance of protecting fundamental rights and how it is carried out in the ever-developing framework of the EU's Area of Freedom, Security and Justice.

Suggested reading:

- István Szijártó, "Convergences and divergences between the EU and the ECHR systems of procedural guarantees in criminal law" *New Journal of European Criminal Law*, Vol. 16 no. 3. pp. 254-277.
- István Szijártó, "Challanges to the rule of law in the EU system of judicial cooperation with specific regard to procedural guarantees in criminal law and cooperation



systems based on the principle of mutual recognition" in Ines Medić. 2nd International Doctoral and Postdoctoral Conference in the Law and Related Fields Splitlaw 2025. (2025) pp. 203-232

TITLE OF THE CLASS: Algorithmic decision-making in the light of human rights

CLASS LECTURER:	BALÁZS HOHMANN PH.D. LL.M. SENIOR LECTURER
FACULTY/SCHOOL:	FACULTY OF LAW

Description and aims:

The course examines algorithmic and automated decision-making systems from a human rights perspective. It explores how such systems are designed, deployed, and regulated, with particular attention to their impact on fundamental rights such as privacy, non-discrimination, freedom of expression, and access to justice. Through legal, ethical, and policy-oriented analysis, the course addresses key regulatory frameworks (including European and international standards), case law, and real-world examples of algorithmic governance in both public and private sectors.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to analyse how algorithmic decision-making reshapes the protection and enforcement of human rights in contemporary societies. They will be equipped to interpret legal and policy debates surrounding automated decision-making, including accountability, transparency, and remedies. Students will also gain the analytical skills necessary to engage with emerging regulatory approaches and to reflect critically on the human rights challenges posed by algorithmic systems in practice.

Suggested reading:

- McGregor, Lorna, Daragh Murray, and Vivian Ng. "International human rights law as a framework for algorithmic accountability." *International & Comparative Law Quarterly* 68.2 (2019): 309-343.
- Brkan, Maja. "Do algorithms rule the world? Algorithmic decision-making and data protection in the framework of the GDPR and beyond." *International Journal of Law and Information Technology* 27.2 (2019): 91-121.
- Zerilli, John, et al. "Transparency in algorithmic and human decision-making: is there a double standard?." *Philosophy & Technology* 32.4 (2019): 661-683.



TITLE OF THE CLASS: Data Protection as a Human Right

CLASS LECTURER:	DR. HABIL. GERGELY LÁSZLÓ SZŐKE, PhD, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
FACULTY/SCHOOL:	FACULTY OF LAW

Description and aims:

The course is a compact introduction to the human rights foundations of European data protection law and the core concepts of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). It combines a substantive overview of privacy and data protection as fundamental rights with interactive case analysis based on key judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR).

Intended Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able to explain the human-rights foundations of European data protection law and articulate how these are reflected in the structure and key notions of the GDPR. Students will be able to critically analyse and present ECtHR case law on data protection under Article 8 ECHR.

Suggested reading:

- Gloria González, Fuster: Study on the Essence of the fundamental rights to privacy and to the protection of personal data, EDPS, 2022. Available: https://www.edps.europa.eu/system/files/2023-11/edps-vub-study_on_the_essence_of_fundamental_rights_to_privacy_and_to_protection_of_personal_data_en.pdf
- European Agency for Fundamental Rights (2018): Handbook on European data protection law, https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra_coe-edps-2018-handbook-data-protection_en.pdf
- Relevant case law of the ECtHR

TITLE OF THE CLASS: The Legal Framework of Human Rights Protection in International and EU Law

CLASS LECTURER:	PROF. DR. ÁGOSTON MOHAY, FULL PROFESSOR
FACULTY/SCHOOL:	FACULTY OF LAW

Description and aims:

The course outlines the current legal framework of human rights protection under international law (universal and regional) and in the law of the European Union. It highlights basic concepts of human rights protection beyond the state and gives account of the functioning, the achievements and the shortcomings of the current system. As a topical ongoing issue, the accession of the EU to the ECHR will be elaborated upon.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

Students will understand how human rights protection works in the current international and



EU law context. They will be able to understand the logic of transnational human rights protection and the possible remedies these systems can offer. They will understand what effect the characteristics of international and EU law have on the enforcement of human rights.

Suggested reading:

- Jack Donnelly, Daniel J. Whelan: International Human Rights (Routledge, 2020)
- Jan Wouters et al.: The European Union and Human Rights. Law and Policy (Oxford, 2020)
- Ágoston Mohay: EU Accession to the ECHR: At the End of the Long and Winding Road? Pécs Journal of International and European Law 2024/II
<https://doi.org/10.15170/PJIEL.2024.2.4>

TITLE OF THE CLASS: The fight against Human Trafficking: Securing victims' rights, The Dutch approach

CLASS LECTURER:	JORN VAN RIJ, SENIOR RESEARCHER
FACULTY/SCHOOL:	HUMAN TRAFFICKING NETHERLANDS NATIONAL POLICE

Description and aims:

This course will explain the specific needs and vulnerabilities and support of victims of different types of exploitation and address the way in how the Dutch systems tries to uphold a victim-centred approach in supporting victims' rights.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, participants will be able to critically review programs and methods in the field of victimization of human trafficking.

Participants will have knowledge on the existing problems and issues on how to support victims of human trafficking

Suggested reading:

- MacLean, S. E., Edgar, N. E., Jormand, M., Ward, B., Yu, J., Sikora, L., & Hatcher, S. (2025) “A Multidisciplinary Scoping Review of Interventions to Support Victims of Human Trafficking” in: *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 1-25. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2025.2534773
- Van Rij, J.J.M. (2024) “Towards a New Human Trafficking Strategy: Proactivity at the Heart of the Ps Paradigm” in: *International Journal of Criminology and Sociology*, 12:151-165. DOI:10.6000/1929-4409.2023.12.12



TITLE OF THE CLASS: The fight against Human Trafficking: Challenges in applying a systematic policing approach

CLASS LECTURER:	JORN VAN RIJ, SENIOR RESEARCHER
FACULTY/SCHOOL:	HUMAN TRAFFICKING NETHERLANDS NATIONAL POLICE

Description and aims:

Policing Human Trafficking is not an easy thing to do. This course will explain the legal context of the crime of human trafficking and describe the challenges that law enforcement agencies encounter in their fight against human trafficking.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

Participants will be able to describe the concept of human trafficking and understand the legal problems involved.

When finished, the participants will understand and recognize policing strategies, aims and efforts in the fight against human trafficking.

Suggested reading:

- MacLean, S. E., Edgar, N. E., Jormand, M., Ward, B., Yu, J., Sikora, L., & Hatcher, S. (2025) “A Multidisciplinary Scoping Review of Interventions to Support Victims of Human Trafficking” in: *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 1-25. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2025.2534773
- Van Rij, J.J.M. (2024) “Towards a New Human Trafficking Strategy: Proactivity at the Heart of the Ps Paradigm” in: *International Journal of Criminology and Sociology*, 12:151-165. DOI:10.6000/1929-4409.2023.12.12