

Syllabus  
**International Human Rights**  
Spring semester 2025

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The course “International Human Rights” will provide an overview of the current international human rights regime, covering the main international and regional human rights instruments and the different monitoring mechanisms. A substantial part of the course is dedicated to the discussion of cases. In the context of recent developments, we will address human rights topics such as freedom of expression, reproductive rights, and the protection of minorities. The course is designed for Master students.

### **General information**

To access all information, updates and course materials, students need to enroll in our Moodle course: <https://moodle-app2.let.ethz.ch/course/view.php?id=14454>. The password for the enrollment will be communicated in the first class. Classes will be held weekly on Wednesdays, from 10:15 to 12:00, starting 19 February 2025.

### **Course requirements**

Attendance in class is mandatory for completing the course. Students may miss not more than two classes based on previous notification by e-mail. Please read all the mandatory materials. Note that the mandatory reading assignments in the programme below are subject to change throughout the semester. Additional readings, which will be uploaded on Moodle, are meant to assist you should any topics be of particular interest or difficulty to you.

Students are awarded 6 ECTS upon successful completion of the course. For a successful completion, students are required to give a group presentation on an assigned topic and engage in a discussion with the whole class. Together with the exam at the end of the semester, the presentation will form the final grade. More information will be provided in the first lecture.

### **Literature**

We recommend the purchase of Alison Bisset, Blackstone's International Human Rights Documents, 13th ed., Oxford 2023. The course's subjects are to a large extent covered by the various contributions in Daniel Moeckli/Sangeeta Shah/Sandesh Sivakumaran (eds), International Human Rights Law, 4th ed., Oxford 2022, and Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade/Damián A. González-Salzberg, International Law of Human Rights, Oxford 2024 and by Olivier de Schutter, International Human Rights Law, 3rd ed., Cambridge 2019. Alternatively, you may find Walter Kaelin/Joerg Kuenzli, The Law of International Human Rights Protection, 2nd ed., Oxford 2019 helpful for your preparation. Additional reading materials are listed in the schedule below.

### **Exam**

There will be an oral exam. Details will be announced in class.

### **Course administration and support**

Further information may be found on Moodle and on the website of Prof. Christine Kaufmann: <https://www.ivr.uzh.ch/de/institutsmitglieder/kaufmann/vorlesungen/FS25/IHR.html>. Please make yourself acquainted in advance with the uploaded documents. For any further queries, please contact the assistants at the Chair of Prof. Kaufmann (Lst.kaufmann@ius.uzh.ch).

**International Human Rights****Course syllabus – subject to change**

	Date	Topic	Mandatory reading assignments
<b>Part 1: Foundations of international human rights law</b>			
1	19 February	<b>History, Notion and Sources</b>	<p><i>Readings</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Bates, in Moeckli/Shah/Sivakumaran (eds.), pp. 3–22 (Chapter 1 – History)</li> <li>– Chinkin, in Moeckli/Shah/Sivakumaran (eds.), pp. 65-88 (Chapter 4 – Sources)</li> <li>– Dembour, in Moeckli/Shah/Sivakumaran (eds.), pp. 43-62 (Chapter 3 – Critiques)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>or</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– De Schutter, pp. 13-144 (Chapter 1 – The rise of international human rights)</li> </ul>
2	26 February	<b>Obligations and Actors</b>	<p><i>Readings</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Mégret, in Moeckli/Shah/Sivakumaran (eds.), pp. 89-105 (Chapter 5 – Special Character)</li> <li>– Clapham, in Moeckli/Shah/Sivakumaran (eds.), pp. 583-604 (Chapter 28 – Non-State Actors)</li> <li>– Young, in Moeckli/Shah/Sivakumaran (eds.), pp. 129-148 (Chapter 7 – Rights and Obligations)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>or</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– De Schutter, pp. 145-288 (Chapter 2 – State responsibility and 'jurisdiction')</li> <li>– De Schutter, pp. 291-435 (Chapter 3 – Respecting human rights: avoiding interference)</li> <li>– De Schutter, pp. 436-556 (Chapter 4 – Protecting human rights: regulating private actors)</li> <li>– De Schutter, pp. 557-606 (Chapter 5 – Fulfilling human rights: progressive realization)</li> <li>– De Schutter, pp. 809-868 (Chapter 8 – Ensuring compliance with international human rights law: the role of national authorities)</li> </ul> <p><i>Cases</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– ECtHR, Rantsev v. Cyprus and Russia</li> <li>– ECtHR, O'Keeffe v. Ireland (legal summary only)</li> </ul>

	Date	Topic	Mandatory reading assignments
3	5 March	ICCPR and ICESCR	<p><i>Readings</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– van Boven, in Moeckli/Shah/Sivakumaran (eds.), pp. 136-147 (Chapter 7 – Categories of Rights)</li> <li>– Eide, in Moeckli/Shah/Sivakumaran (eds.), pp. 186-206 (Chapter 10 – Adequate Standard of Living)</li> </ul> <p><i>Cases</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– South African Constitutional Court, Minister of Health and Others v. Treatment Action Campaign and Others</li> <li>– South African Constitutional Court, Soobramoney v. Minister of Health</li> <li>– ECtHR, Singh v. France</li> <li>– HRC, Singh v. France</li> </ul>
4	12 March	UN Human Rights Protection (I): Charter- and Treaty-Based Mechanisms	<p><i>Readings</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Connors/Shah, in Moeckli/Shah/Sivakumaran (eds.), pp. 385-428 (Chapter 19 – United Nations)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>or</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– De Schutter, pp. 869-942 (Chapter 9 – The United Nations human rights treaties system)</li> <li>– De Schutter, pp. 943-987 (Chapter 10 – The United Nations Charter-based monitoring of human rights)</li> </ul>
	19 March	No class	<p><i>Cases</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– HRC Universal Periodic Review – Switzerland, 4<sup>th</sup> cycle</li> <li>– UN Special Procedures communication to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</li> <li>– UN Special Procedures communication to Myanmar</li> </ul>
5	26 March	UN Human Rights Protection (II): Charter- and Treaty-Based Mechanisms	

	Date	Topic	Mandatory reading assignments
	2 April	<b>No class</b>	
<b>6</b>	9 April	<b>Regional Human Rights Protection</b>	<p><i>Readings</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Çali, in Moeckli/Shah/Sivakumaran (eds.), pp. 429-444 (Chapter 20 – Regional Protection)</li> <li>– Antkowiak, in Moeckli/Sdhah/Sivakumaran (eds.), pp. 445–462 (Chapter 21 – The Americas)</li> <li>– Greer/Graham, in Moeckli/Shah/Sivakumaran (eds.), pp. 463–486 (Chapter 22 – Europe)</li> <li>– Heyns/Killander, in Moeckli/Shah/ Sivakumaran (eds.), pp. 487–504 (Chapter 23 – Africa)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>or</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– De Schutter, pp. 988-1060 (Chapter 11 – Regional mechanisms of protection)</li> </ul> <p><i>Cases</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– AfCtHPR, Request for Advisory Opinion by the Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU) on the Compatibility of Vagrancy Laws With the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and Other Human Rights Instruments Applicable in Africa</li> <li>– IACtHR, Case of the “Street Children” (Villagrán Morales et al.) v. Guatemala</li> </ul>

	Date	Topic	Mandatory reading assignments
<b>Part 2: Substantive rights and guarantees</b>			
7	16 April	<b>Life and Torture</b>	<p><i>Readings</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Ferstman, in Moeckli/Shah/Sivakumaran (eds.), pp. 169-186 (Chapter 9 – Integrity of the Person)</li> <li>– Shah, in Moeckli/Shah/Sivakumaran (eds.), pp. 257-284 (Chapter 13 – Detention and Trial)</li> </ul> <p><i>Cases</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– ECtHR, El Masri v. the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</li> <li>– IACtHR, Roche Azaña and others v. Nicaragua</li> <li>– ECtHR, Osman v. United Kingdom (<i>legal summary only</i>)</li> <li>– ECtHR, Lambert v. France (<i>legal summary only</i>)</li> </ul>
	23 April	<b>Spring Break – no class</b>	
8	30 April	<b>Freedom of Thought and Expression</b>	<p><i>Readings</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– McGoldrick, in Moeckli/Shah/Sivakumaran (eds.), pp. 209-234 (Chapter 11 – Thought, Expression, Association, and Assembly)</li> <li>– CCPR, General Comment No. 34 on Art. 19</li> </ul> <p><i>Cases</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– AfCtHPR, Ingabire Victoire Umuhoza v. Republic of Rwanda</li> <li>– ECtHR, Sanchez v. France</li> </ul>
9	7 May	<b>Equality and Non-Discrimination</b>	<p><i>Readings</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Moeckli, in Moeckli/Shah/Sivakumaran (eds.), pp. 151-168 (Chapter 8 – Equality and Non- Discrimination)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>additionally</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Kälin/Künzli, pp. 355-359 (Chapter 11, IV – The Prohibition of Racial Discrimination)</li> </ul> <p><i>Cases</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– HRC, Rosalind Williams Lecraft v. Spain</li> <li>– IACmHR, Jessica Lenahan (Gonzales) et al. v. the United States</li> </ul>

	Date	Topic	Mandatory reading assignments
10	14 May	Reproductive Rights	<p><i>Readings</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Otto, in Moeckli/Shah/Sivakumaran (eds.), pp. 309-338 (Chapter 16 – Women’s Rights)</li> </ul> <p><i>Cases</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– US Supreme Court, Dobbs, State Health Officer of the Mississippi Department of Health, et al. v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization et al.</li> <li>– HRC, L.M.R. v. Argentina</li> <li>– IACtHR, I.V. v. Bolivia</li> </ul>
11	21 May	Minorities and Indigenous Peoples	<p><i>Readings</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– McCorquodale, in Moeckli/Shah/Sivakumaran (eds.), pp. 359-381 (Chapter 18 – Group Rights)</li> <li>– OHCHR, Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People’s Republic of China</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>additionally</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Kälin/Künzli, pp. 367-375 (Chapter 11, VII – Protection of Minorities and of Indigenous Peoples)</li> </ul> <p><i>Cases</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– HRC, Mahuika v. New Zealand</li> <li>– AfCtHPR, Ogiek v. Kenya</li> </ul>
12	28 May	Topic to be defined – Possibly summing up and repetition	