

Course description

General information		
Instructor	Siniša Zrinščak, Full professor with tenure	
Course title	Religions and Human Rights	
Study Programme	University Graduate Programme in Protestant theology	
Type of course	Elective	
Year of study	First and second	
Number of credits and class hours	ECTS credits	5
	Class hours (L+E+S)	1+0+0

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

1.1. *Course Objectives*

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the basic cleavages in the relationship between religion and human rights, and to recognize the following within a specific social context:

1. if and how religious rights of various religions are guaranteed on individual and collective levels;
2. in which manner do religions influence the realization of human rights through their social engagement;
3. which mechanisms are available for overcoming conflicts between various rights.

1.2. *Prerequisite*

There are no prerequisites for this course.

1.3. *Learning outcomes at the Study Programme level*

1. Identify and analyze the interdisciplinary relevance of theology.
2. Create and combine different models of practical action in the Church and evaluate their applicability in handling specific situations in ecclesial practice and the social engagement of Christians.
3. Design and create forms of applying various theological concepts in the contexts of ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, and the dialogue between Christian theology, philosophy, culture, and science.
4. Develop the skills necessary for interdisciplinary research and for finding research-based answers to the common questions of theology and other scholarly disciplines.
5. Present and explain the importance of theological contribution to the discussion on important contemporary ethical, social, political, and cultural issues.
6. Integrate the existing knowledge with new insights and produce new ideas.

1.4. *Learning Outcomes*

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. define key concepts: religions, human rights, religious freedom, tolerance, discrimination, multidimensionality and intersectionality, multiculturalism, (de)judicialization of religious rights, etc.; 2. understand the historical development of religion and human rights relations from the perspective of particular religions; 3. analyze the context, scope, and specifics of principal international documents on human and religious rights 4. critically examine the impact of social contexts on understanding of the concepts of human rights and religious rights; 5. note the nature of conflicts among particular human rights, and the mechanism for overcoming them 6. analyze empirical research on religious rights; 7. integrate the knowledge acquired in this course with knowledge acquired in other courses. 		
<p><i>1.5. Course Content:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to the course, the resources, the requirements, and the grading structure 2. Historical development of human rights 3. Human rights in particular religions 4. Human rights and religious rights in key international documents 5. Various political regimes and religious rights 6. Religious rights of majority and minority religions and church-state relations 7. National and international courts and religious rights 8. Religious and other human rights 9. Empirical research on religious rights 10. Final discussion 		
<p><i>1.6. Modes of Teaching</i></p>	<p>x lectures x seminars and workshops <input type="checkbox"/> exercises <input type="checkbox"/> remote learning <input type="checkbox"/> field teaching</p>	<p>x homework assignments <input type="checkbox"/> multimedia and internet <input type="checkbox"/> laboratory work <input type="checkbox"/> mentored work <input type="checkbox"/> other _____</p>
<p><i>1.7. Comments</i></p>		
<p><i>1.8. Course Requirements</i></p> <p>Active participation in class, regular reading assignments. The students are required to write an essay, and orally present it in class. The subject of the essay needs to be approved by the instructor.</p>		
<p><i>1.9. Course Assessment¹</i></p>		

¹ **IMPORTANT:** Along with every mode of Course Assessment an adequate number of ECTS credits needs to be given, so that the total number of ECTS credits matches the number for the course. Empty fields can be used for additional activities.

Class attendance		Active participation in class	1	Term paper	1	Experimental work	
Written exam		Oral exam	2	Essay		Research	
Project		Quizzes		Written report		Practical work	
Portfolio		Oral presentation	1				

1.10. Grading structure during lectures and on the final exam

Students' participation will be monitored during the course of the semester. The students are required to give an oral presentation of the topic of their essay. The final exam is in oral form. In order to take the final exam, the students must hand in their essay.

1.11. Mandatory Resources

J. WITTE, Jr. & C. GREEN, *Religion & Human Rights. An Introduction*, Oxford University Press, 2012.

1.12. Additional Resources

- 1) G. GIORDAN, S. ZRINŠČAK (ed.) (2018) Religions and Human Rights. *Social Compass*, 65(1):3-147
- 2) O. BRESKAY, G. GIORDAN, S. ZRINŠČAK (ur.) (2021) Religious Freedom: Between Governance and Social Perception, *Social Compass*, 68(3), forthcoming.

1.13. Number of copies of mandatory resources relative to the number of students currently enrolled

<i>Title</i>	<i>Number of copies</i>	<i>Number of students</i>
Resources are available to students in electronic form.		

1.14. Modes of quality control that ensure acquisition of knowledge, skills and competences

Discussions with students during class, essay, and final exam.