

**Module descriptions
for the M.A. degree programme
in Human Rights**

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valid from winter 2019/20 onwards

As of November 2020



The module descriptions are given for informational purposes only, error and omissions excepted.
In case of doubt or conflict, the respective official degree programme regulations will prevail.
For questions on the modules, please contact the respective module coordinator.
For general questions, please contact the programme coordinator.

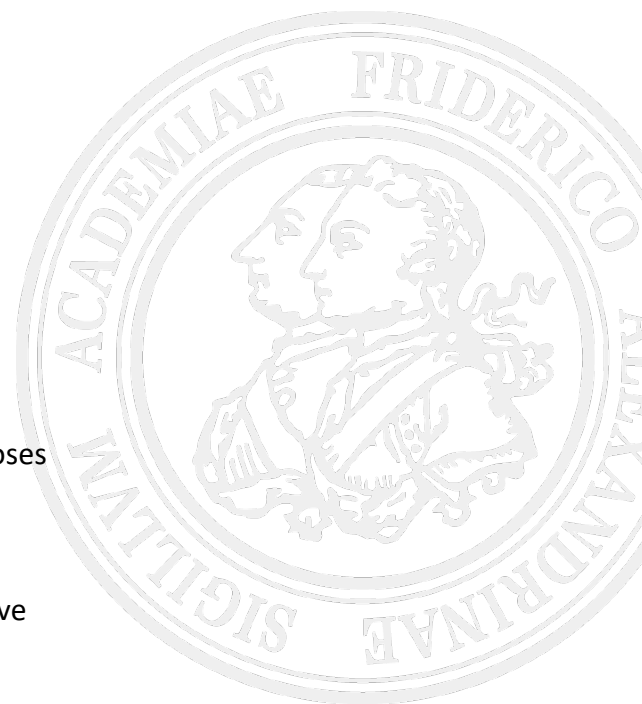


Table of Contents

Table of Contents	3
Contact information	4
Module Overview M.A. Human Rights.....	5
Principles and Methodology	6
Human Rights Politics.....	8
Human Rights Law	10
Interdisciplinary Approach to Non-Discrimination	12
Project Work.....	14
Specialised Aspects of Human Rights Protection I.....	15
Specialised Aspects of Human Rights Protection II.....	16
Specialised Aspects of Human Rights Protection III.....	17
Specialised Aspects of Human Rights Protection IV	18
Master's Thesis.....	19



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Module Overview M.A. Human Rights

1st Semester (Winter Semester): Foundations

- **Module 1: Principles and Methodology** (10 ECTS credits)
 - Lecture: Human Rights Philosophy (5 ECTS credits)
 - Seminar: Human Rights Methods (3 ECTS credits)
 - Tutorial: Research and Writing Exercise (2 ECTS credits)
- **Module 2: Human Rights Politics** (10 ECTS credits)
 - Lecture: The Politics of Human Rights (5 ECTS credits)
 - Seminar: Human Rights Protection in the EU (5 ECTS credits)
- **Module 3: Human Rights Law** (10 ECTS credits)
 - Lecture: Legal Protection of Human Rights (5 ECTS credits)
 - Seminar: Leading Cases of Human Rights Law (5 ECTS credits)

1st Semester (total): 30 ECTS credits

2nd Semester (Summer Semester): Specialised Courses

- **Module 4: Interdisciplinary Approach to Non-Discrimination** (5 ECTS credits)
- **Module 5: Project Work** (5 ECTS credits)
- **Modules 6–9: Specialised Aspects of Human Rights Protection I – IV** (5 ECTS credits each)
 - four seminars to be chosen out of the offered seminars

2nd Semester (total): 30 ECTS credits

3rd Semester (Winter Semester):

- **Module 10: Master's Thesis**

3rd Semester (total): 30 ECTS credits

Master Human Rights (total): 90 ECTS credits

1	Module name	Principles and Methodology	10 ECTS credits
2	Courses	Lecture: Human Rights Philosophy (2 SWS) Seminar: Human Rights Methods (1 SWS) Tutorial: Research and Writing Exercise (1 SWS)	5 ECTS credits 3 ECTS credits 2 ECTS credits
3	Lecturers	Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Heiner Bielefeldt, Prof. Dr. Katrin Kinzelbach, Prof. Dr. Markus Krajewski, and tutors	

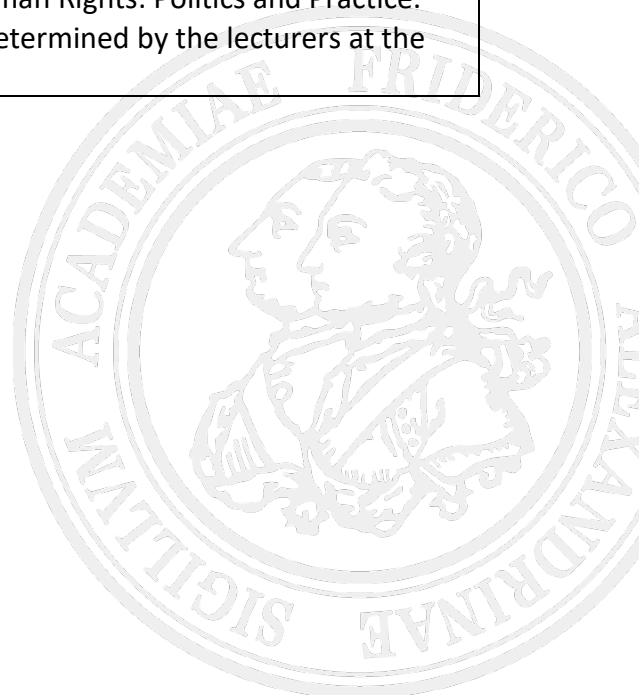
4	Module coordinator	Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Heiner Bielefeldt
5	Contents	<p><i>Lecture: Human Rights Philosophy</i></p> <p>The lecture deals with the basic principles underlying human rights: normative universalism, human dignity, the inalienability of certain rights, the relationship between freedom and equality, claims of social inclusion, the secular nature of modern law, the sometimes tense interplay between human rights and democracy. These and other principles will be developed historically as well as systematically. This inter alia implies a criticism of cultural essentialist (i.e. Euro-centric) monopolizations of human rights.</p> <p>After examining some 'classical' European approaches to justifying human rights (e.g. by Locke, Kant and Mill), discussions will focus on diverse contemporary readings of human rights, including by Rawls, Habermas, Rorty, Martha Nussbaum, Jau-hwa Chen and others. One important question is also how to cope with different forms of objections to human rights, as they have been raised in the context of feminism, postcolonial studies and different social movements.</p> <p><i>Seminar: Human Rights Methods, and accompanying Tutorials</i></p> <p>The seminar familiarises students with academic research methods in the field of human rights, covering legal, political and philosophical approaches. Students practice these methods in exercises during the tutorials.</p>
6	Learning objectives and skills	<p>Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> acquire a thorough knowledge of the history of ideas of human rights. get more familiar with some 'classic' and contemporary human rights explanations.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • study key critiques of traditional approaches to human rights arguments. • expand and deepen their expertise in understanding systematic relationships (e.g. the affinities between human rights and democracy). • broaden and deepen their skills to criticise ideological distortions and the instrumentalisation of human rights. • broaden and deepen their skills for intercultural debate on human rights. • broaden and deepen their skills to participate in policy debates on human rights. • recognise different methodological approaches to academic human rights research. • are able to critically read and analyse academic texts in the field of human rights. • produce short research papers in the field of human rights.
7	Prerequisites	None
8	Integration in curriculum	1st semester
9	Module compatibility	M.A. Human Rights M.A. Political Science
10	Method of examination	Open book exam (120 minutes)
11	Grading procedure	100 % module examination
12	Module frequency	Winter semester
13	Resit examinations	Twice
14	Workload	Contact hours: 60 h (4 SWS x 15 per semester) Independent study: 240 h (10 ECTS credits x 30 – 60 contact hours)
15	Module duration	One semester
16	Teaching and examination language	English
17	Recommended reading	Will be determined by the lecturer at the beginning of the semester.

1	Module name	Human Rights Politics	10 ECTS credits
2	Courses	Lecture: The Politics of Human Rights (corresponds to the Lecture: Political Dynamics of Human Rights according to the Degree Programme Regulations) (2 SWS) Seminar: Human Rights Protection in the EU (2 SWS)	5 ECTS credits each
3	Lecturers	Prof. Dr. Katrin Kinzelbach, Barbara Lochbihler	

4	Module coordinator	Prof. Dr. Katrin Kinzelbach	
5	Contents	<p><i>Lecture: The Politics of Human Rights</i> This lecture explores human rights claims as a political phenomenon. Who invokes human rights today? Why might actors choose to not invoke human rights language in political struggles? Why are human rights contested, and what are different forms of contestation? The lecture also covers transnational human rights advocacy and the role that different actors have played in shaping human rights regimes. Furthermore, it asks why states ratify human rights treaties, and why states do or do not comply with treaty obligations. Drawing on social science literature and taking a critical look at the empirical data that informs this literature, the lecture investigates where and why human rights violations occur.</p> <p><i>Seminar: Human Rights Protection in the EU</i> Students will be familiarised with the political system and the different actors within the EU. The seminar will then focus on human rights issues in various political areas within the European Union, including foreign and humanitarian policy.</p>	
6	Learning objectives and skills	<p>Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acquire a thorough knowledge of national, international and transnational human rights polity, politics and policies. • study the development of human rights and the development of human rights protection as complex socio-political processes. • expand and deepen their expertise in understanding human rights politics and policies in specific contexts. • recognize the importance of civil society engagement for human rights protection. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • become familiar with techniques and methods of the empirical analysis of human rights and human rights politics and policies. • describe and analyse the political system of the EU with regards to human rights protection.
7	Prerequisites	None
8	Integration in curriculum	1st semester
9	Module compatibility	M.A. Human Rights M.A. Political Science
10	Method of examination	Open book exam (120 minutes)
11	Grading procedure	100% module examination
12	Module frequency	Winter semester
13	Resit examinations	Twice
14	Workload	Contact hours: 60 h (4 SWS x 15 per semester) Independent study: 240 h (10 ECTS credits x 30 – 60 contact hours)
15	Module duration	One semester
16	Teaching and examination language	English
17	Recommended reading	Michael Goodhart (ed.), Human Rights: Politics and Practice. Additional reading will be determined by the lecturers at the beginning of the semester.



1	Module name	Human Rights Law	10 ECTS credits
2	Courses	Lecture: Legal Protection of Human Rights (2 SWS) Seminar: Leading Cases in Human Rights Law (2 SWS)	5 ECTS credits each
3	Lecturers	Prof. Dr. Markus Krajewski Prof. Dr. Laura Clérico	

4	Module coordinator	Prof. Dr. Markus Krajewski	
5	Contents	<p><i>Lecture: Legal and Institutional Protection of Human Rights</i> The lecture provides an overview of the legal and institutional foundations of international human rights law. It focuses on the International Bill of Rights and the institutional system (Charter and Treaty Body Systems), including their historical development and political embedding. Key aspects of human rights doctrine (system of state duties, territorial scope and obligations of non-state actors) will also be discussed. The lecture also addresses selected specific human rights. In addition, the procedures of the regional human rights courts, the treaty committees and of the UN will be assessed.</p> <p><i>Seminar: Leading Cases of Human Rights Law</i> The seminar deepens topics of substantive and procedural human rights law on the basis of in-depth critical analysis of leading decisions of the regional human rights courts and treaty bodies. The cases will be prepared by the students in small groups and then presented and discussed.</p>	
6	Learning objectives and skills	<p>Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acquire a thorough knowledge of the legal and institutional foundations of international human rights law. • learn to identify the common basic structures and the differences in respective treaties and institutions and to put them into their political and social context. • learn to critically assess the practices of human rights institutions and the respective procedures on the basis of selected examples. • expand and deepen their expertise in understanding and analysing international norms and decisions. • extend their social competence through case-related work in small groups. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> expand their self-competence through autonomous planning of a short presentation.
7	Prerequisites	None
8	Integration in curriculum	1st semester
9	Module compatibility	M.A. Human Rights
10	Method of examination	Open book exam (120 minutes)
11	Grading procedure	100% module examination
12	Module frequency	Winter semester
13	Resit examinations	Twice
14	Workload	Contact hours: 60 h (4 SWS x 15 per semester) Independent study: 240 h (10 ECTS credits x 30 – 60 contact hours)
15	Module duration	One semester
16	Teaching and examination language	English
17	Recommended reading	Moeckli/Shah/Sivakumaran, International Human Rights Law. Additional reading will be determined by the lecturers at the beginning of the semester.



1	Module Name	Interdisciplinary Approach to Non-Discrimination	5 ECTS credits
2	Courses	Seminar: Interdisciplinary Seminar on Non-Discrimination (2 SWS)	5 ECTS credits
3	Lecturers	Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Heiner Bielefeldt Prof. Dr. Markus Krajewski	

4	Module coordinator	Prof. Dr. Markus Krajewski	
5	Contents	<p>The seminar addresses the foundations of the principle of non-discrimination, i.e. the equal dignity of all human beings, as well as the openness of the principle of non-discrimination for the articulation of new experiences of injustice. It furthermore gives a historical overview of the gradual expansion of the characteristics of prohibited discrimination and insights into the specific problems of multiple and intersectional discrimination, different degrees and different forms of (direct, indirect, structural etc.) discrimination. In this context, specific forms of discrimination based on ethnicity, age or other grounds will be discussed. This finally leads to discussing relevant international and national instruments to overcome discrimination including by an active participation of civil society.</p>	
6	Learning objectives and skills	<p>Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acquire a thorough knowledge of the history of revealing discrimination. • acquire a thorough knowledge of the (mainly international) legal instruments to overcome discrimination. • study traditional and contemporary arguments for the need to overcome discrimination. • study different characteristics and forms of discrimination in their relationship to each other. • expand and deepen their expertise in assessing complex (e.g. hidden) discriminatory structures. • expand and deepen their expertise in understanding intersectional discrimination, i.e. of discriminating at the interface of different characteristics. 	
7	Prerequisites	None	
8	Integration in curriculum	2nd semester	
9	Module compatibility	M.A. Human Rights	

10	Method of examination	presentation (20 minutes) and term paper (20 pages)
11	Grading procedure	100% module examination
12	Module frequency	Summer semester
13	Resit examinations	Twice
14	Workload	Contact hours: 30 h (2 SWS x 15 per semester) Independent study: 120 h (5 ECTS credits x 30 – 30 contact hours)
15	Module duration	One semester
16	Teaching and examination language	English
17	Recommended reading	Will be determined by the lecturers at the beginning of the semester.



1	Module Name	Project Work	5 ECTS credits
2	Courses	Project Groups	5 ECTS credits
3	Lecturers	Aneth Lwakatare-Thumm, María Gabriela Valenzuela Robles	

4	Module coordinator	Prof. Dr. Markus Krajewski
5	Contents	During the project groups students design and carry out a project in the field of human rights protection. They form groups, decide on a topic for their project, plan out their goals and timeline, work with relevant partners if required, and raise the necessary funds.
6	Learning objectives and skills	Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • design, plan and execute a human rights related project. • work together in a team. • communicate effectively with each other and relevant partners. • proactively deal with problems and setbacks as they come up during the process.
7	Prerequisites	None
8	Integration in curriculum	2nd semester
9	Module compatibility	M.A. Human Rights
10	Method of examination	Project diary (5 – 10 pages)
11	Grading procedure	100 % module examination
12	Module frequency	Summer semester
13	Resit examinations	Twice
14	Workload	Contact hours: 30 h (2 SWS x 15 per semester) Independent study: 120 h (5 ECTS credits x 30 – 30 contact hours)
15	Module duration	One semester
16	Teaching and examination language	English
17	Recommended reading	None

1	Module Name	Specialised Aspects of Human Rights Protection I	5 ECTS credits
2	Courses	Possible options will be published in UnivIS	5 ECTS credits
3	Lecturer	Possible options will be published in UnivIS	

4	Module coordinator	Prof. Dr. Markus Krajewski
5	Contents	The seminars offered will exemplify and deepen the knowledge from the foundational modules with regard to specific human rights issues affecting particularly vulnerable groups.
6	Learning objectives and skills	Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acquire sound knowledge on specific human rights issues in the chosen area. • learn to reflect critically on societal conditions (causes, mechanisms, dimensions, consequences) of particularly vulnerable situations. • learn to analyse critically the national implementation of international human rights standards in particularly vulnerable situations.
7	Prerequisites	None
8	Integration in curriculum	2nd semester
9	Module compatibility	M.A. Human Rights
10	Method of examination	Presentation (20 minutes) and term paper (20 pages), or written exam (120 minutes)
11	Grading procedure	100% module examination
12	Module frequency	Summer semester
13	Resit examinations	Twice
14	Workload	Contact hours: 30 h (2 SWS x 15 per semester) Independent study: 120 h (5 ECTS credits x 30 – 30 contact hours)
15	Module duration	One semester
16	Teaching and examination language	English
17	Recommended reading	Will be determined by the respective lecturer at the beginning of the semester.

1	Module Name	Specialised Aspects of Human Rights Protection II	5 ECTS credits
2	Courses	Possible options will be published in UnivIS	5 ECTS credits
3	Lecturer	Possible options will be published in UnivIS	

4	Module coordinator	Prof. Dr. Markus Krajewski
5	Contents	The seminars offered will exemplify and deepen the knowledge from the foundational modules with regard to specific human rights issues that are covered in a specialised human rights treaty.
6	Learning objectives and skills	Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acquire sound knowledge on specific human rights issues. • learn to reflect critically on societal conditions (causes, mechanisms, dimensions, consequences) of particularly vulnerable situations. • understand the importance of specialised human rights treaties and their implementation in selected countries.
7	Prerequisites	None
8	Integration in curriculum	2nd semester
9	Module compatibility	M.A. Human Rights
10	Method of examination	Presentation (20 minutes) and term paper (20 pages), or written exam (120 minutes)
11	Grading procedure	100% module examination
12	Module frequency	Summer semester
13	Resit examinations	Twice
14	Workload	Contact hours: 30 h (2 SWS x 15 per semester) Independent study: 120 h (5 ECTS credits x 30 – 30 contact hours)
15	Module duration	One semester
16	Teaching and examination language	English
17	Recommended reading	Will be determined by the respective lecturer at the beginning of the semester.

1	Module Name	Specialised Aspects of Human Rights Protection III	5 ECTS credits
2	Courses	Possible options will be published in UnivIS	5 ECTS credits
3	Lecturer	Possible options will be published in UnivIS	

4	Module coordinator	Prof. Dr. Markus Krajewski
5	Contents	The seminars offered will exemplify and deepen the knowledge from the foundational modules with regard to specific topical human rights issues of particular current relevance.
6	Learning objectives and skills	Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acquire sound knowledge on specific human rights issues. • learn to reflect critically on current debates within human rights. • can compare and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of various means of addressing human rights violations.
7	Prerequisites	None
8	Integration in curriculum	2nd semester
9	Module compatibility	M.A. Human Rights
10	Method of examination	Presentation (20 minutes) and term paper (20 pages), or written exam (120 minutes)
11	Grading procedure	100% module examination
12	Module frequency	Summer semester
13	Resit examinations	Twice
14	Workload	Contact hours: 30 h (2 SWS x 15 per semester) Independent study: 120 h (5 ECTS credits x 30 – 30 contact hours)
15	Module duration	One semester
16	Teaching and examination language	English
17	Recommended reading	Will be determined by the respective lecturer at the beginning of the semester.

1	Module Name	Specialised Aspects of Human Rights Protection IV	5 ECTS credits
2	Courses	Possible options will be published in UnivIS	5 ECTS credits
3	Lecturer	Possible options will be published in UnivIS	

4	Module coordinator	Prof. Dr. Markus Krajewski	
5	Contents	The seminars offered will exemplify and deepen the knowledge from the foundational modules with regard to specific human rights issues that cut across several disciplines, touch upon various vulnerabilities and/or controversial discussions.	
6	Learning objectives and skills	<p>Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acquire sound knowledge on specific and complex cross-cutting human rights issues. • can participate in current intersectional debates within human rights. • can compare and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of various means of addressing human rights violations. • can analyse the various complex layers affecting human rights in modern societies. 	
7	Prerequisites	None	
8	Integration in curriculum	2nd semester	
9	Module compatibility	M.A. Human Rights	
10	Method of examination	Presentation (20 minutes) and term paper (20 pages), or written exam (120 minutes)	
11	Grading procedure	100% module examination	
12	Module frequency	Summer semester	
13	Resit examinations	Twice	
14	Workload	Contact hours: 30 h (2 SWS x 15 per semester) Independent study: 120 h (5 ECTS credits x 30 – 30 contact hours)	
15	Module duration	One semester	
16	Teaching and examination language	English	
17	Recommended reading	Will be determined by the respective lecturer at the beginning of the semester.	

1	Modul name	Master's Thesis	30 ECTS credits
2	Courses	--	
3	Lecturers	Full-time university lecturers employed at the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Theology, or the School of Law (other supervisors may be authorised by the Examinations Committee)	

4	Module coordinators	Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Heiner Bielefeldt Prof. Dr. Markus Krajewski PD Dr. Michael Krennerich
5	Contents	Possible areas of research for the thesis are the basic subjects of Human Rights Politics, Philosophy of Human Rights and Human Rights Law.
6	Learning objectives and skills	Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acquire the ability to pursue a scientific question for a long time and to work on them within a specified period • can develop independent ideas and concepts for the solution of scientific problems in the field of human rights policy, the philosophy of human rights and/or human rights protection • deal with theories, terminology, characteristics, limitations, and doctrines of the subject and reflect these in an in-depth and critical manner • are able to manage and develop independently appropriate scientific methods and present the results in a scientific manner • are able to present complex subject matter in a clear manner to a specific target groups
7	Prerequisites	Successful completion of modules 1 to 3
8	Integration in curriculum	3rd semester
9	Module compatibility	M.A. Human Rights
10	Method of examination	Master thesis (60-80 pages)
11	Grading procedure	100% Master Thesis
12	Module frequency	Winter semester

13	Resit examinations	Once
14	Workload	Independent study: 900 h
15	Module duration	1 Semester
16	Teaching and examination language	English
17	Recommended reading	Will be determined by the module coordinator after decision on the subject of the thesis.

