



## **ROST 382 Human Rights: The View from Rome**

**John Felice Rome Center**

Spring 2025

Sala -

Tuesday - 6:45 PM – 9:15 PM

Instructor: Dr. Nicola Di Mauro – ndimauro@luc.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

*Please note: this is an Engaged Learning course, approved for the Service-Learning category, satisfying the Loyola University Chicago Engaged Learning requirement. All students must complete the service learning experience and related assignments in order to successfully pass this course.*

### **Course Description**

The course aims to discuss with the students the socio-juridical developments of human rights and their applications in the Mediterranean area. The course provides basic tools for understanding the history and principles underlying human rights. It is organized in two parts to discuss human rights related to two fundamental issues of the contemporary age: migration and religious freedom.

Human rights are closely linked to the concept of justice. The general aim of the course is, therefore, to reflect on the forms of justice and on the different paths for its construction. To do so, the course includes a Service Learning component, which culminates in students' reflections during the last sessions. As part of their Service Learning experience, which should take at least 20 hours, students are asked to learn, through encounter and engagement (in person and/or virtually), how individuals and specific populations in Italy and the Mediterranean area are affected by one or more of the themes explored during the course.

### **Learning Outcomes**

On completion of the course students should be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge of history and principles underlying human rights;
- assess application of human rights related to migration and religious freedom;
- identify current challenges regarding the enjoyment of human rights in the Mediterranean area;
- demonstrate self-reflection, anchored in the service-learning experience.

### **Course Material**

Assigned readings and other assigned material shall be posted and/or linked on the course's Sakai page.

### **Course Structure**

This course approaches human rights from an interdisciplinary perspective, analyzing different layers that affect human rights discourse. Course sessions are generally designed to include three main components:



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- Lecture by the instructor or guest lecturer;
- Student presentations and seminar conversations on assigned class readings;
- Service Learning.

### **Grading**

94-100: A

90-93: A-

87-89: B+

84-86: B

80-83: B-

77-79: C+

74-76: C

70-73: C-

67-69: D+

60-66: D

59 or lower: F

### **Assessment Components**

- |                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| • Participation    | 20% |
| • Midterm quiz     | 20% |
| • Final exam       | 40% |
| • Service Learning | 20% |

Please find below a description of the assessment components:

- Participation is demonstrated by good class attendance and completion of in-class group presentations and discussions.
- The midterm quiz is meant to help you assess your knowledge of the first part of the course as well as familiarity with how/where to locate relevant information.
- The final exam will be based on mandatory readings. Further instructions will be shared during the course.
- For the Service Learning component of the course, further details will be shared during the course.



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### **Attendance Policy**

In accordance with the JFRC mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, all courses adhere to the following absence policy. Prompt attendance, preparation and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student.

- For all classes meeting once a week, students cannot incur more than one absence.

The final course grade will drop by 1% for each absence beyond the allowance specified.

Attendance is mandatory in class. Students should consult the on-campus nurse or call the on-call doctor if they are sick. The collective health of the JFRC is everyone's responsibility. Do not attend class if you are ill. In the event of missed classes due to sickness or the obligation to quarantine, the offices of the JFRC Academic Dean and Student Life will work with students and professor to ensure access to course content.

### **Late or Missed Assignments**

Late or missed assignments will not be accepted for grading without the authorization of the instructor. As per the JFRC academic policies, students who miss any scheduled exam or quiz, including a final exam at the assigned hours will not be permitted to sit for a make-up examination without approval of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Permission is given rarely and only for grave reason; travel is not considered a grave reason. Make-up exams will only be given for documented absences.

### **Academic Honesty**

You are expected to respect copyright and intellectual property rights.

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable and will be dealt with in accordance with Loyola University Chicago's guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with Loyola's standards here: [http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg\\_academicintegrity.shtml](http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml). You are responsible to comply with the LUC Student Handbook.

Remember to cite any sources that you use in your work.

You can find info on citation styles here: <https://libguides.luc.edu/citing>

### **Late or Missed Assignments**

Late or missed assignments will not be accepted for grading without the authorization of the instructor.

### **Accessibility Accommodations**

Students registered with the Student Accessibility Center requiring academic accommodations should contact the Office of the Dean at the John Felice Rome Center, the first week of classes.

## **Course schedule**

### **Session 1 (1/21): Course Intro and Overview**

### **Session 2 (1/28): History of Human Rights - 1**

**Suggested reading:** Ishay, Micheline. *The History of Human Rights : from Ancient Times to the Globalization Era*. [New edition]., University of California Press, 2008.

### **Session 3 (2/4): History of Human Rights - 2**

**Suggested reading:** Ishay, Micheline. *The History of Human Rights : from Ancient Times to the Globalization Era*. [New edition]., University of California Press, 2008.

### **Session 4 (2/11): Service Learning Session**

### **Session 5 (2/18): Rights and Mobility - International law and its applications**

**Mandatory reading:** Chetail, Vincent. "The Transnational Movement of Persons Under General International Law - Mapping the Customary Law Foundations of International Migration Law". In *Research Handbook on International Law and Migration*, pp. 1-72, V. Chetail & C. Bauloz, eds., Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2014.

### **Session 6 (2/25): Rights and Mobility in the Mediterranean - Human Rights at the Frontier**

**Mandatory reading:** Spijkerboer, Thomas. "The Global Mobility Infrastructure: Reconceptualising the Externalisation of Migration Control". *European Journal of Migration and Law*, 20: 4, 2018, 452-469.

**Suggested reading:** Lemberg-Pedersen, Martin. "Losing the Right to Have Rights: EU Externalization of Border Control". In Andersen and Lassen, *Europe and the Americas: Transatlantic Approaches to Human Rights*, 2015, 393-417.

### **Session 7 (3/4): Migration from Islamic Majority Countries Towards Contemporary Europe and Italy**

**Mandatory reading:** Cesari, J., "Securitization of Islam in Europe". *Die Welt des Islams*, 52, 2012, 430-449.

### **Session 8 (3/18): Guest Lecture**

During the session you will take the **Midterm quiz**

### **Session 9 (3/25): Rights and Religion - Islam in Italy, the State and Religious Freedom**

**Mandatory reading:** Alessandro Ferrari. "Islam in Italy 2017: the year of the announced breakthrough?". *Contemporary Italian Politics*, 10:4, 2018, 421-433.

### **Session 10 (4/1): Rights and Religious Freedom in Italian Prisons**

**Mandatory reading:** Ignazio De Francesco. "Muslims in Prison. An Educational Experience in Dialogue with Arab/Muslim Culture". *Islamochristiana*, 42, 2016, 165-181.

### **Session 11 (4/8): Human Rights and Interreligious Dialogue in the Mediterranean**



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No readings

**Session 12 (4/15): Service Learning Session / Presentations**

No readings

**Session 13 (4/22): Recap Session**

No readings

**Session 14 (4/29) [5:30-7:30 PM]: Final Exam**

*Please note: The course syllabus is subject to change. Changes will be announced to the class.*