



SELF PROGRAM

2026/2027

Legal discourses on the human right to water and the realisation of SDG 6

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Course information

Number of credits: 6 credits

Contact hours: 30 hours

Hours taught per week: 3 hours

Teaching period: Fall Semester 2026

Course description

The human right to water was first recognized in international law in 2010 by the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN). The objective of this course is to elucidate the significance of this human right in achieving sustainable access to potable water and sanitation worldwide. It will assess the evolution of the right to water in international and European law and elucidate the contemporary challenges to access to water through case studies.

The second objective of this course is to understand SDG 6 in the Agenda 2030 of the United Nations; its evolutions and how far are we from achieving this goal.

The third objective of the course is to tackle the predefined idea that privatization in the water sector is a limit to the full realization of the human right to water. This part will focus on examples from around the world (Latin America, Europe) to assess whether privatization is a way to go.

Prerequisites

General knowledge of the protection of human rights in European and International Law.

General knowledge of Agenda 2030.

Course objectives

The main objective of the course is to understand how law can help protect the realisation of the right to water and how law contributes to access to drinkable water.

The underlying objective is to analyse the place of the right to water in the panorama of human rights.

Assessment

Mid-term oral presentation on a given subject in groups.

Final written exam (case solving, commentary of an article, ...)

Attendance

In order to participate, students must be present. Nevertheless, a maximum of 2 (two) unexcused absences will be allowed; otherwise, no mark will be given. An unexcused absence at a test (final test or continuous assessment) means no credits for the course.