

<b>Course Title</b>	<b><i>Human Rights Violations in Germany: Gender, Colonial Crimes &amp; Transnational Corporations</i></b>
<b>Category</b>	Religion, Ethics & Law
<b>Class Time</b>	<b>Winter Session: January 6<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> 2020</b> <b>Track B</b> <b>Weekly schedule</b> Monday: 1.30 pm – 3 pm & 3.20 pm – 4.50 pm Tuesday & Wednesday: 9.00 am – 10.30 am & 11.00 am – 12.30 pm Friday: 1.30 pm – 3 pm & 3.20 pm – 4.05 pm
<b>Course Level &amp; Target Group</b>	Undergraduate students with a strong interest in law, religious studies, cultural studies, social sciences, European studies and students with a strong interest in the topic.
<b>Course Language</b>	This course is taught in English, including readings in English. For the understanding of the texts and the discussions in class a language level B2 or higher (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) is required.
<b>ECTS</b>	5 ECTS (45 contact hours)
<b>Instructor</b>	Theurer, Karina, M.A.

## Course Description

Can human rights be universal? What exclusions and injustices are inherent in law that treats everyone “equal” in unequal societies? How is it that some human rights have been finally recognized, whereas others are continuously dismissed? Which actors are involved and why? What role do power and knowledge play? Who ‘wrote’ ‘the’ history of human rights? Who was excluded from this process? Departing from an interdisciplinary perspective the Winter School will give an insight into Critical Human Rights Discourse and Litigation in Germany. On the basis of concrete human rights cases students will learn about the different bodies and instruments of human rights protection in Germany, their practical advantages, challenges and inherent exclusions.

By focusing on specific sectors (Gender, Colonial Crimes and Transnational Corporations) and their intersectional effects students are taught to see the canon of rights protected within the legal system as constructed and thus embedded in social and political processes of deliberations on different levels. With the understanding that strategic human rights litigation is only one of the many tools used to forward social change and justice, we talk about how these legal strategies and instruments can and should be intertwined with grassroots political awareness campaigns, the creation of associations to strengthen visibility, investments in public relations and advocacy for change and justice within social movements. Studies concerning the impact of Strategic Public Litigation will be used in the discussion, potentially with representatives from NGOs involved in some of the relevant Public Interest Litigations. Representative fundamental texts of critical legal theory will be read, discussed and applied to the German context. These are interactive courses that have participants practicing the shifts of perspective proposed by the authors of the texts as acts of resistance to the premises of objectivity, neutrality, reasonableness and universality of contemporary hegemonic law. The courses will be team taught and aim to create a platform for dialogue on equal terms. Class sessions will usually open with lecture and/or discussant presentation, case-oriented inquiry, theoretical exploration and class discussion of the topic/theme for the session.

Students will be able to communicate directly with Berlin NGO’s activists and state agencies in the field of human rights and anti-discrimination.

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## Course Objective & Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- assess and analyse human rights in the fields of Gender, Colonial Crimes and Transnational Corporations in the German context
- compare human rights developments in different regional and national contexts in Germany
- assess the interaction between national law and human rights norms
- assess and analyse historical human rights developments in different societal sectors and contextualise them
- critically evaluate common human rights theories
- define and apply intersectionality theory and related concepts in the context of human rights lawyering in Germany
- identify the main challenges in promoting and implementing human rights given different gender, race, religious, class or societal perspectives
- assess and analyse challenges for law enforcement in human rights cases
- assess and analyse both the potential and limits of strategic litigation and NGO participation for strengthening human rights in Germany
- articulate and discuss human rights issues

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## Readings

A course reader will be distributed at the beginning of the class.

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## Course Schedule

TBA

## Assignments

In order to be granted 5 ECTS, students are required to

- participate actively in all classes,
- to create a blogpost,
- to write an essay.

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## Assessment Components

A minimum of 80% class attendance is required. The final grade will be composed of active participation during class discussions as well as an essay and a blogpost on a subject the students chose.

Failure to fulfil one of the mentioned components results in failure of the class.

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## Expectations & Policies

Preparation for lively discussions in the classroom: be on time, have at least the required readings completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification.

Assignments: complete all assignments according to the specified requirements on schedule including handing over to the lecturer.

Commitment in class: pay particular attention to the lecturer and respect differences of opinions (classmates', lecturers, local constituents engaged with on the visits).

Academic guidelines: Comply with academic integrity policies (such as no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical), especially the academic honor code and the student code of conduct (see FAQs on [www.huwisu.de](http://www.huwisu.de)).

Attendance policy: No unexcused absences are permitted. Students must contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work – to excuse absence please contact the HUWISU office (80% class attendance are required).

Field trips: if classes involve a field trip or other external visits, these require attendance as well as appearance in time – transportation difficulties are never valid reasons for an excused absence.

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## Cultural Extra-curricular Activities

HUWISU offers a fine selection of interesting extra-curricular activities and aims to give all participants an unforgettable stay in Berlin. Your program includes excursions, sport activities and social gatherings providing you the opportunity to get to know the city, the university and your classmates better and to meet students from all parts of the world. The costs for these offers are included in the course fees.

Below you will find examples of previously offered cultural activities. You will be informed about the respective cultural program after your enrolment via email as well as during the course period.

### Political and historical guided tours:

- **Federal Chancellery (Bundeskanzleramt):** It's the central coordination point for the entire government policy. The office is in constant contact to departments and other authorities.
- **German Parliament (Bundestag):** As the highest organ of the legislative in Germany it's elected by the German people. In practice Germany is governed by a bicameral legislature, of which the Bundestag serves as the lower house and the Bundesrat equals the upper house.
- **House of Representatives (Abgeordnetenhaus):** It's the state parliament (Landtag) of Berlin and located in the center of the reunified city. Together with the Martin Gropius Bau, the Topography of Terror and the Bundesrat, it presents an arresting contrast to the flair of the new Potsdamer Platz.
- **Topography of Terror:** A permanent exhibition with focus on the central institutions of the SS and police during the "Third Reich" and the crimes they committed throughout Europe. With the help of mostly photographic material, visitors are led through the major themes of the exhibition's five main segments.
- **Political Archive:** As the "memory" of the Federal Foreign Office it preserves the files on German diplomacy since 1867, as well as the international treaties signed by the Federal Republic of Germany and its predecessors in title. The records are preserved, processed and made available for academic research.

### Cultural guided tours:

- **Kreuzberg Tour:** Kreuzberg has emerged from its history as one of the poorest quarters in Berlin in the late 1970s to a cultural center of today's Berlin. A unique area and one of the hippest neighborhoods in Berlin with many bars, pubs and clubs.
- **Museum Island (Museumsinsel):** was awarded UNESCO World Heritage Status in 1999 and is an ensemble of five museums: Old Museum, New Museum, Old National Gallery, Pergamon Museum and Bode Museum.
- **Berlin Cathedral (Berliner Dom):** Berlin's largest and most important Protestant church is located on the Museum Island.
- **Daytrip to Potsdam:** Be inspired by the illustrious attractions of the UNESCO's World Heritage while underway through the city of Potsdam. Immerse yourself in the history and present of Potsdam and discover many palaces, gardens, and historic quarters such as the "Holländisches Viertel" or the "Nikolaikirche".
- **Exhibitions:** Berlin is known for its unique galleries and exhibitions, that is why we will visit at least one during the Winter University.

### Social gatherings

- **Welcome Get-Together:** We invite you to meet all participants as well as the HUWISU staff in a relaxed atmosphere.
  - **Ice Skating:** A fun outdoor sport activity for everyone; even for those who have never been on ice-skates before. Afterwards you may head out for hot beverage to warm up from the inside.
  - **Farewell Party:** At the end of the Winter University we will come together to celebrate the exciting time with HUWISU.
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## Your Instructors

*Theurer, Karina, M.A. (Berlin)* is director of the Institute for Legal Intervention at the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR). Until 2019 she coordinated and taught the Humboldt Law Clinic Human Rights. She was a Research Fellow at the Chair of Public Law and Gender Studies at the Faculty of Law of Humboldt-Universität and taught the Masters Program "Social Work as a Human Rights Profession". She studied Law at the Ruprecht-Karls-University in Heidelberg, the Université Robert Schuman in Strasbourg und the Humboldt-Universität (Graduate Prize for Academic Achievement in European and International Law). Her fields of specialization include Feminist and Decolonial Legal Theory, Human Rights Litigation in Germany, Gender Equality, Sexualized Violence and Business & Human Rights. She holds a Master of Arts in "Interdisciplinary Latin American Studies" and is currently writing her Ph.D. on the (Re-) Construction of Gender in Germany through human rights litigation. For ten years she edited a bilingual literature magazine and translates poetry from Spanish to German on a regular basis.

*Judith Hackmack* is a graduate in Philosophy, History and Law from the universities of Regensburg, Graz, and Berlin, where she is registered as a lawyer. As a PhD candidate, she examines the legal history of German colonialism. Hackmack has worked in Germany, Ecuador and Costa Rica. She was a Legal Trainee at ECCHR and has worked for the organization since 2015. In 2017 she joined ECCHR's Business and Human Rights program where she works on surveillance technology and human rights violations in Syria. Within the Institute for Legal Intervention, she is responsible for work on German and European colonial crimes as well as critical postcolonial perspectives on law.

*Dr. Miriam Saage-Maaß* is a qualified lawyer and Vice Legal Director at ECCHR, where she coordinates the Business and Human Rights program. She has worked on various cases against corporations, including proceedings against Lidl relating to exploitation of workers in Bangladesh and Pakistan and against companies trading in cotton picked through forced child labor in Uzbekistan. She regularly publishes articles on the legal liability of corporations for human rights violations in the global supply chain and is internationally consulted as an expert in the area of corporate responsibility and human rights. She is a temporary lecturer at the Freie Universität Berlin. On 15 October 2016, the Association of Democratic Lawyers (Vereinigung Demokratischer Juristinnen und Juristen – VDJ) in Germany awarded Saage-Maaß and ECCHR's General Secretary the Hans Litten Prize. VDJ made the award in acknowledgment of Kaleck and Saage-Maaß's role in the strategic approach of ECCHR's work.