



**JOHN FELICE
ROME CENTER**

ROST 382 Human Rights: The View from Rome

John Felice Rome Center

Spring 2026

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;
- identify current challenges regarding the enjoyment of human rights in the Mediterranean area;
- assess application of human rights among migrant and ethnic populations.
- assess application of human rights related to religious freedom.
- 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



JOHN FELICE ROME CENTER

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:

- 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.



JOHN FELICE ROME CENTER

- 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.

Attendance Policy

In accordance with the Rome Center mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, and in compliance with full-time student visa status, all courses adhere to the following attendance policy.

Prompt attendance, preparation and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student and synonymous with academic success. Attendance is mandatory at every class meeting for each course. Lateness or leaving class early will impact the course grade at the professor's discretion. All absences, including medical absences, will be treated the same, unless they are documented long-term conditions or emergencies. Such situations will be evaluated case-by-case by the Academic Affairs office.

- After 1 absence, a 2% final grade reduction will be applied for each missed class.
- Missing 3 classes or more will result in an automatic failure (F).

Late or Missed Assignments & Exam Policy

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 Integrity

Plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct are unacceptable at the the Rome Center and will be dealt with in accordance with Loyola University Chicago's guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with Loyola's standards here: <https://catalog.luc.edu/academic-standards-regulations/undergraduate/>. You are responsible to comply with the LUC University Catalog.

Accessibility Accommodations

Students registered with the Student Accessibility Center (SAC) requiring academic accommodations should contact the Academic Affairs office at the John Felice Rome Center during the first week of classes.

Statement on Title IX

The Rome Center follows Loyola's [Comprehensive Policy and Procedures for Addressing Discrimination, Sexual Misconduct, Retaliation](#) and will comply with those as indicated and instructed.



**JOHN FELICE
ROME CENTER**

Course schedule

Session 1 (1/20): Course Intro and Overview

Session 2 (1/27): 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 (2/3): 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 (2/10): Service Learning Session

Session 5 (2/17): 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 (2/24): 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 (3/3): Migration from Islamic Majority Countries Towards Contemporary Europe and Italy - 1

Mandatory reading: Cesari, J., "Securitization of Islam in Europe". *Die Welt des Islams*, 52, 2012, 430-449. During the session you will take the **Midterm quiz**

Session 8 (3/17): Migration from Islamic Majority Countries Towards Contemporary Europe and Italy - 2

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

Session 9 (3/24): 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 (3/31): 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 (4/7): Human Rights and Interreligious Dialogue in the Mediterranean

No readings

Session 12 (4/14): Service Learning Session / Presentations



JOHN FELICE
ROME CENTER
No readings

Session 13 (4/21): Recap Session
No readings

Session 14 (4/28) [5:30-7:30 PM]: Final Exam

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