

Course Description

This Human Rights course explores the fundamental principles of human rights, democratic governance, and civic participation. Learners examine key international frameworks, the rule of law, and the responsibilities of citizens in democratic societies. Through real-world examples and discussions, the course promotes critical thinking, respect for others, and active engagement in upholding human dignity and democratic values.

1. Educational Institution	Shatt Al-Arab University			
2. Scientific Department / Center	Department of Translation			
3. Course name/code	Human Rights			
4. Programme(s) to which it contributes	1 st Stage			
5. Available forms of attendance	Lecture			
6. Semester/Year	2025/2026			
7. Number of study hours (total)	30 hours	Number of hours per week		
		theoretical	practical	Total
		1		1
8. Date of preparation of this description	2026/2/14			
9. Course Objectives:				
1. Understand the core principles of human rights and democratic systems.				
2. Identify key international human rights instruments and democratic institutions.				
3. Develop awareness of civic responsibilities and active participation in democratic society.				

10.Course Outcomes and Teaching Methods, Learning and Evaluation

A. Cognitive Objectives

By the end of the course, students will demonstrate foundational knowledge of the historical development, philosophical foundations, and legal frameworks of international human rights.

B. Subject-specific skills

Students will develop the ability to interpret human rights texts using basic legal reasoning and terminology. They will analyze provisions from primary documents, identify rights violations in case scenarios, and classify them within appropriate legal frameworks..

C. Thinking Skills

The course strengthens critical analysis through examination of normative claims, legal arguments, and policy debates. Students will evaluate competing interpretations of rights, assess proportionality and limitations, and distinguish between legal obligations and political commitments.

D. General and qualifying skills transferred (other skills related to employability and personal development).

Learners strengthen public reasoning, debate competence, and ethical decision-making. The ability to assess compliance frameworks and institutional accountability supports careers in law, public administration, education, international relations, civil society organizations, and policy development.

11. Course Structure			
Week	Topic	Learning Method	Reading Material
1	The complex concept of human rights	Lecture	Source 4: Page 1-18
2	Fallacies as a commonality in human rights violations	Lecture	N/A
3	Minorities' rights	Lecture	Source 1: Page 49 – 64
4	Combating human rights abuses	Lecture	Source 1: Page 67 – 73
5	International humanitarian law and the protection of human rights in conflicts	Lecture	Source 1: Page 74 – 79
6	Human rights abuses in Iraq	Lecture	Source 1: Page 80 – 86
7	Universal Declaration of Human Rights	Lecture	Source 3: IX – 76
8	Islam and the Declaration – Part 1	Lecture	Source 3: Page 77 – 182
9	Islam and the Declaration – Part 2	Lecture	Source 3: Page 77 – 182
10	Islam and the Declaration – Part 3	Lecture	Source 3: Page 77 – 182
11	Prevalent Attitudes Towards Human Rights Among Muslims – Part 1	Lecture	Source 3: Page 183 – 199
12	Prevalent Attitudes Towards Human Rights Among Muslims – Part 2	Lecture	Source 3: Page 183 – 199
13	Human Rights Council and mechanisms for the protection of rights	Lecture	Source 1: Page 89 – 108
14	Contemporary challenges in the field of human rights	Lecture	Source 1: Page 111 – 126
15	Introduction to the concept of democracy	Lecture	Source 1: Page 135 – 141
16	The development of democracy in the modern era and its implications	Lecture	Source 1: Page 142 – 148
17	Democracy in the twentieth century: between totalitarianism and global expansion	Lecture	Source 1: Page 149 – 151

18	Patterns of democracy and their development in contemporary contexts	Lecture	Source 1: Page 152 – 156
19	Islam and democracy	Lecture	Source 1: Page 157 – 162
20	Authorities and principles of democratic governance	Lecture	Source 1: Page 165 – 174
21	Elections as a mechanism for democracy	Lecture	Source 1: Page 175 – 179
22	Political parties	Lecture	Source 1: Page 180 – 183
23	Civil society and pressure groups	Lecture	Source 1: Page 184 – 189
24	The relationship between democracy and civil liberties	Lecture	Source 1: Page 193 – 195
25	Guarantees and regulation of rights and freedoms in a democratic system	Lecture	Source 1: Page 196 – 201
26	Media and democracy	Lecture	Source 1: Page 202 – 212
27	Comparative democratic systems	Lecture	Source 1: Page 215 – 219
28	Democracy in the developing world: challenges and models of implementation	Lecture	Source 1: Page 220 - 228
29	Digital transformation in democratic practice (digital democracy)	Lecture	Source 1: Page 229 – 232
30	The experience of democracy in Iraq after 2003.	Lecture	Source 1: Page 233 - 24

12. Infrastructure

No.	Textbook Title	Type
1.	حقوق الإنسان والديموقراطية (المنهج الدراسي لوزارة التعليم العالي)	Required
2.	The Subject of Human Rights by Danielle Celermajer & Alexandre Lefebvre	Recommended
3.	Islam and Human Rights by Muhammad Zafrulla Khan	Recommended
4.	The Concept of Human Rights in Judaism, Christianity and Islam by Catharina Rachik & Georges Tamer	Recommended

13.Course Improvement Plan

Student feedback will be systematically collected to evaluate clarity of theoretical concepts, relevance of case studies, and effectiveness of assessment formats. Based on findings, adjustments may include expanded case-based learning, incorporation of contemporary case developments, or re-sequencing of thematic units.


توقيع رئيس القسم


توقيع أستاذ المادة

