

GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS LW5116

Semester 2

Irish Centre for Human Rights

School of Law

Academic Year 2026-2027

Course Outline

Objective	The course aims at providing students with knowledge of the relationship between gender and human rights. It explores origins, development and challenges of integrating gender into human rights law discourse: from inclusion of women to attention to LGBTI issues. The course introduces students to relevant international bodies and instruments. It also introduces students to relevant theoretical notions and critical analyses of human rights as they relate to gender through the study of feminist approaches, queer theory and decolonial thought.		
Times	Day tbc	Time tbc	Venue tbc
Lecturer	Professor Ekaterina Yahyaoui Krivenko - ekaterina.yahyaoui@universityofgalway.ie		
Overall Learning Outcomes	Upon the completion of the course students should be able to: ▪ Demonstrate familiarity with relevant theoretical notions and approaches; ▪ Demonstrate ability to apply these notions and most of the approaches to concrete situations; ▪ Identify relevant applicable provisions of international instruments and determine the most appropriate provision(s) to use in a particular case; ▪ Identify gaps and shortcomings of existing international instruments and propose possible ways for improvement; • Convincingly present arguments in favour of the selected solution; • Demonstrate awareness of and sensitivity to broader social and political implications of their choices with respect to gender and human rights.		
Methodology	Each subject is introduced through a lecture presentation. The students' understanding of the subject is further developed through participatory discussions based on required readings. Students are expected to complete readings in preparation for each class based on reflective questions posted on blackboard. Active participation in		

	discussions is essential for the successful acquisition of knowledge and analytical skills necessary for the essay. Students will be required to agree their essay topic with the lecturer by week 6 the latest.
Programme(s)	LL.M. programmes, full-time and part-time.
Course Material	Required weekly readings form the basis for the course. These readings are either accessible on the internet or at the university library. In exceptional cases they are posted on blackboard. The main reference book is Ekaterina Yahyaoui Krivenko, <i>Gender and Human Rights: Expanding Concepts</i> (Edward Elgar Publishing 2020). The book is available in the library in an electronic format. If you wish to purchase it for personal use, you can refer e.g. to the editor's webpage: https://www.e-elgar.com/shop/usd/catalog/product/view/?ignore_category/1/id/16817/s/gender-and-human-rights-9781800372849/
Essential Texts	Relevant international documents and academic articles which will be indicated for each session in the full outline.
Assessment	• Final research essay (80%, 5000 words maximum, including footnotes, excluding table of contents and bibliography); • In-class presentation on the planned topic of the essay (20%); students have to share 1000 words summary by 5pm before the day of the presentations. This element of the evaluation is subject to adjustment if the number of students registered is too large to accommodate individual presentations. More details will be provided during the first class

Topics covered (subject to possible minor changes):

Gender and its meanings

Feminist critiques of international law and human rights

International system for protection of women's rights

Queer theories and international human rights law

Principle of equality and prohibition of discrimination

Right to be free from violence

Culture, gender and human rights

Family, human rights and anti-gender mobilisations

A detailed reading list for each week will be posted on Canvas at least one week before the start of the module.