

COURSE DETAIL

PHILOSOPHY OF LAW: NATURAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Country

France

Host Institution

University of Bordeaux

Program(s)

University of Bordeaux

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Political Science Philosophy Legal Studies

UCEAP Course Number

133

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

PHILOSOPHY OF LAW: NATURAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

UCEAP Transcript Title

PHILOSOPHY OF LAW

UCEAP Quarter Units

3.50

UCEAP Semester Units

2.30

Course Description

This course introduces ongoing debates on human rights by returning to their philosophical sources, in particular theories of natural law and their long intellectual history. Why were natural law theories the original source of the idea of human rights? Why did they cease to be the dominant theoretical framework from the nineteenth century onward? What replaced them? Can human rights be conceived without reference to natural law? Do human rights retain their validity if one abandons the idea of a universal human nature? The course is structured around three methodological choices. First, it is situated at the interface of philosophy, legal theory, and legal history. Second, it adopts a long-term historical perspective, ranging from ancient philosophy through the Middle Ages to contemporary theories. Third, it sheds light on present-day debates concerning human rights.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

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PHILOSOPHY OF LAW: NATURAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Host Institution Course Details

<https://www.sciencespobordeaux.fr/en/international-students-and-programs/englis...>

Host Institution Campus

Sciences Po Bordeaux

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Bachelor

Host Institution Department

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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