# Multilevel Protection of Human Rights and Environmetal Issues

## Prof. Mariangela La Manna

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The aim of this course is to provide students with a basic understanding of the interaction between international human rights law and the protection of the environment, in order to figure whether the protection of human dignity and the protection of the environment are competing values or they resonate with one another instead.

*Knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course, students will be aware of the complex dynamics underlying the relationship between human rights and the environment and will be able to assess the greater or lesser suitability of human rights judicial and quasi-judicial instances to deal with the protection of the environment.

*Applying knowledge and understanding*

Upon completion of the course, students will get acquainted with proper legal vocabulary and acquire the tools to understand and critically evaluate human rights legal texts and case-law.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will address the main rules and principles governing the interaction between human rights and the environment both under treaty law and customary law. This will be done pursuant both to the main substantive elements of the discipline and to its procedural aspects. The case-law of regional human rights courts will be thoroughly addressed, with a special emphasis on the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). Next to it, the case-law of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR) will also be addressed. The practice of treaty-monitoring bodies (e.g. the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Rights of the Child etc.) will also be enquired, especially with reference to the issue of climate change and the way it impinges on the enjoyment of human rights. Throughout the course, the perspective of particularly vulnerable groups, such as children, elderly people, disabled individuals, indigenous groups, will be duly accounted for.

***READING LIST[[1]](#footnote-1)***

Attending students are expected to prepare on their notes as well as on the materials that will systematically be uploaded on the blackboard page of the course.

Non-attending students will prepare on the textbook: W. Baber, A. May (ed. by) *Environmental Human Rights in the Anthropocene*, Cambridge University Press, 2023.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course is designed to be inherently interactive and will accordingly be comprised of seminars and workshops. Students will constantly be expected to prepare on relevant issues to be dealt with in class.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students are assessed based on an oral examination. To pass the exam, students must show not only that they have become familiar with the main issues and legal instruments included in the syllabus, but also that they can address legal issues that may arise in real-life scenarios through a logically structured and properly expressed analysis.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

A very good command of English is expected. Also, basic knowledge of the foundations of Public International Law, though not mandatory, is strongly advised.

*Office hours*

Please see prof. La Manna’s personal page (<https://docenti.unicatt.it/ppd2/en/docenti/27561/mariangela-la-manna/ricevimento>)

1. I testi indicati nella bibliografia sono acquistabili presso le librerie di Ateneo; è possibile acquistarli anche presso altri rivenditori. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)