

PSCI 317 | The Evolution of Human Rights: From Cyrus to the Global War on Terror Spring 2025

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Course Description

This course is an introduction to the systematic and analytical study of human rights. Students will learn the historical origins of human rights and how they are formed in law; understand what their universal human rights are and address problems related to its implementation. Students will gain a strong grasp of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its thirty articles which underpin international human rights law and provide a common global standard for human rights. Each session on each article will be accompanied with a case study exemplifying the article. Today, most societal problems are expressed as a human rights issue, while war crimes and accountability for them remain a road riddled with difficulties. Finally, in the context of a rapidly changing global landscape pertaining to technological advances, social media, and transnational crime, the need for updating old mechanisms in human rights laws, as well as the creation of new ones is an imperative.

Learning Goals

This course will primarily teach students to:

- Research contemporary human right issues and show a grasp of means and methods of the implementation of human rights and awareness raising
- Reflect on the politicization of human rights, and on the obstacles and contexts that impede their implementation.
- Assess and examine fake news
- Recognize all forms of human rights and have a full understanding of all the Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Identify and analyze the ethical grey areas and conundrums associated with the "War on Terror"
- Discuss and evaluate the impact of AI on human rights
- Discuss and evaluate the impact of the tech revolution on privacy rights
- Debate, discuss, present and advocate for the human rights issues of their choice

Course Requirements and Assessment

CYA Attendance Policy

CYA regards attendance in class and on-site (in Athens or during field study trips) as essential, so attendance at all scheduled meetings is required. All absences are recorded and have consequences that may affect your grade.

Class Contribution 25% – Class Contribution includes physical and mental presence in the classroom, arriving on time, preparation, participation in class discussions, and posting occasionally on the Moodle forum. Reading assignments are to be completed before each class session. Class contribution is one of the most important factors for determining your grade for the semester. I expect all of you to come prepared, engage in our discussions, ask questions, and voice your opinions in class. If you are extremely uncomfortable speaking in front of a large group of students, you may send your opinions or afterthoughts in writing via email. If you never participate in class and do not send any thoughts by email, your contribution grade will be low.

Midterm Paper 35% – A brief on a human rights topic of the student's choice. 2000 words. An Infographic must be included. Due during midterm exam week.
Hyperlinks to be used.

Final Paper 40% – An extended research paper on a human rights topic of the student's choice -4000 words. Due during final exams week. Students will provide an in-class presentation of their paper as well to their peers. MLA Bibliography.

Note: There are no in-class exams.

Policy on Assignments and Make-up Work

Details about assignments and exams will be given in advance. I will accept no late assignments or make-up exams unless discussed with me in advance. If you are unable to come to class, please let me know beforehand via email.

CYA Policies and Regulations

Academic Accommodations

Students are required to submit an official letter from the office at their school that handles academic accommodations (generally the Office of Disability Services), or to have that office send a letter. Students who have submitted such a letter to CYA should also talk to their professors individually to discuss how these accommodations will work in each specific course.

ePolicy on Original Work

Plagiarism is literary theft. As such, it is a serious offense which will not be tolerated either at your home institution or at CYA. Plagiarism on an examination or in a paper will result in an F for the course. You must cite the author of any and all ideas that you use that is neither common knowledge nor your own idea. If you are in doubt, it is safest to cite the source. Your work should be original and reflect your own ideas and thoughts. If you are unsure about what counts as original work, please consult your professor and check the Student Handbook.

Use of Laptops

In-class or onsite use of laptops and other devices is permitted if this facilitates course-related activities such as note-taking, looking up references, etc. Laptop or other device privileges will be suspended if devices are not used for class-related work.

Upgrade to 400-level course

Courses can be upgraded to a 400-level. This constitutes usually 25% additional work on the part of the student. The option to upgrade opens the second week of classes. If you are interested in this option, please talk to your professor.

Required Readings

AI governance and Human Rights - Chatham House – International ... (n.d.-a). <https://www.chathamhouse.org/2023/01/ai-governance-and-human-rights>

Concern USA . (n.d.). *The 10 largest refugee crises to know in 2023*. Homepage. <https://concernusa.org/news/largest-refugee-crises/#:~:text=In%20the%20past%20decade%2C%20the,are%20over%2032.5%20million%20refugees>.

Evans, G. (2020, August 30). *Europe's migrant crisis: The year that changed A continent*. BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-53925209>

The global impact of 9/11: Twenty Years on. Wilson Center. (n.d.). <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/global-impact-911-twenty-years>

Hantzopoulos, M., & Bajaj, M. (2021). *Educating for peace and human rights an introduction*. Bloomsbury Publishing Plc.

Heupel, M., Heaphy, C., & Heaphy, J. (2022). *US counterterrorism and the Human Rights of foreigners abroad: Putting the gloves back on?* Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.

Human rights: A brief introduction - harvard T.H. chan school of public ... (n.d.-b). <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/134/2016/07/Human-Rights-A-brief-intro-2016.pdf>

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Morsink, J. (2022). *Article by article the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for a new generation*. University of Pennsylvania Press.

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Questions and answers on the right to Social Security. Human Rights Watch. (2023, June 20).

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/05/25/questions-and-answers-right-social-security>

Tomuschat, C. (2014). *Human rights: Between idealism and realism*. Oxford University Press.

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<https://news.stanford.edu/2022/04/13/know-disinformation-address/>

What is discrimination? Amnesty International. (2023, July 11). <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/discrimination/>

Women and girls deserve full access to Social Security. OHCHR. (2023, July 21). <https://www.ohchr.org/en/stories/2023/07/women-and-girls-deserve-full-access-social-security>

The Story of Our Freedom, The Australian Human Rights Commission

<https://humanrights.gov.au/magnacarta/infographic/transcript.html>

The Cyrus Cylinder, The Getty Museum https://www.getty.edu/art/exhibitions/cyrus_cylinder/

The Bill of Rights Institute, Bill of Rights (1791), <https://billofrightsinstitute.org/primary-sources/bill-of-rights>

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for **Human Rights**, *Human Rights* [HYPERLINK](https://web.p.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie45PFks62vS7Gk63nn5Kx95uXxl6trUqypbBIsKmeSa%2bwsFC4qLE4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLuntUqwrLNMr6%2byPvHf4IW0169546jfkqvYsFC3o7J7tNyreeTat0Xir7J74drjed%2bptnu%2b6ON85%2bmkhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPshOPY6T7y1%2bVVv8SkeeyztE6yqbBLpNztiuvX8IXk6%2bqE8tv2jAAA&vid=7&sid=6aIae2ff-b289-4c6f-afd9-d94ccdeaa38c@redis)
 "https://web.p.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie45PFks62vS7Gk63nn5Kx95uXxl6trUqypbBIsKmeSa%2bwsFC4qLE4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLuntUqwrLNMr6%2byPvHf4IW0169546jfkqvYsFC3o7J7tNyreeTat0Xir7J74drjed%2bptnu%2b6ON85%2bmkhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPshOPY6T7y1%2bVVv8SkeeyztE6yqbBLpNztiuvX8IXk6%2bqE8tv2jAAA&vid=7&sid=6aIae2ff-b289-4c6f-afd9-d94ccdeaa38c@redis" *Indicators : A Guide to Measurement and Implementation* New York : United Nations. 2012.

Spring 2025 Tentative Schedule

Day	Date/Day	Topic / Readings / Assignments Due / Place (if applicable)
	Jan 23-25	Field Study Delphi and Ancient Olympia
1	Jan 28	Syllabus Review Student introductions. Video: What are the universal human rights? Benedetta Berti Ted-X Video Class Discussion: What is Human Rights? What types of governments are there in the post WWII order and how do they relate to human rights? Each student will discuss what human rights issue compels them the most today and to be instructed to begin thinking of their topic of choice for their first assignment, a brief.
2	Jan 30	The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Depth Article 1 All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Article 2 Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Article 3 Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person. Article 4 No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms. Required Reading: <i>Human Rights: A Brief Introduction</i> , Stephen P. Marks, Harvard University https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/134/2016/07/Human-Rights-A-brief-intro-2016.pdf
3	Feb 4	The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Depth Article 1 All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Article 2 Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Article 3 Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person. Article 4 No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms. Required Reading: <i>Human Rights: A Brief Introduction</i> , Stephen P. Marks, Harvard University https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/134/2016/07/Human-Rights-A-brief-intro-2016.pdf
4	Feb 6	The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Depth Article 7 All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination. Article 8 Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law. Required Reading: <i>What is discrimination?</i> Amnesty International. (2023, July) https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/discrimination/ What is discrimination?. Amnesty International. (2023, July 11). https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/discrimination/

5	Feb 7	<p>The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Depth</p> <p>Article 9 No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.</p> <p>Article 10 Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.</p> <p>Required Reading: Daron Acemoglu , Alexander Wolitzky, A Theory of Equality Before the Law, <i>The Economic Journal</i>, Volume 131, Issue 636, May 2021, Pages 1429–1465, https://doi.org/10.1093/ej/ueaa116</p>
18-21 Feb		Field Study The Peloponnese
6	Feb 25	<p>Article 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence. • No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed. <p>Article 12 No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.</p> <p>Required Reading: Pennington, K. (2003). <i>Innocent until proven guilty: The origins of a legal maxim</i>. The Catholic University of America.</p>
7	Feb 27	<p>The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Depth</p> <p>Article 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. • Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country. <p>Article 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution. • This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations. <p>Required Reading: Concern USA . (n.d.). <i>The 10 largest refugee crises to know in 2023</i>. Homepage. https://concernusa.org/news/largest-refugee-crises/#:~:text=In%20the%20past%20decade%2C%20the,are%20over%2032.5%20million%20refugees.</p> <p>Evans, G. (2020, August 30). <i>Europe's migrant crisis: The year that changed A continent</i>. BBC News. https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-53925209</p> <p>Anna Bailey-Morley, & Kerrie Holloway. (2022, November 30). <i>The rise of the far right in Denmark and Sweden – and why it's vital to change the narrative on immigration</i>. ODI. https://odi.org/en/insights/the-rise-of-the-far-right-in-denmark-and-sweden-and-why-its-vital-to-change-the-narrative-on-immigration/</p>
8	March 4	<p>The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Depth</p> <p>Article 15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone has the right to a nationality. • No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality. <p>Article 16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution. • Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses. • The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State. <p>Required Reading: O'Byrne, D. (2003). <i>Human rights: An introduction</i>. Routledge. P337-364</p>
9	March 6	<p>The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Depth</p> <p>Article 17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others. • No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property. <p>Article 18 Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.</p>
10	March 11	<p>The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Depth</p> <p>Article 19 Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without</p>

		<p>interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.</p> <p>Article 20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. • No one may be compelled to belong to an association. <p>Required Reading: Paquette, L. (2019). <i>Strategy and human rights</i>. Nova Science Publishers, Inc. Thoms, S. (2023, July 22). <i>How much blasphemy is allowed in Europe? – DW – 07/22/2023</i>. dw.com. https://www.dw.com/en/how-much-blasphemy-is-allowed-in-europe/a-66314095</p>
11	March 13	<p>The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Depth</p> <p>Article 21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives. • Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country. • The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures. <p>Article 22</p> <p>Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.</p> <p>Required Reading: <i>Questions and answers on the right to Social Security</i>. Human Rights Watch. (2023, June 20). https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/05/25/questions-and-answers-right-social-security <i>Women and girls deserve full access to Social Security</i>. OHCHR. (2023, July 21). https://www.ohchr.org/en/stories/2023/07/women-and-girls-deserve-full-access-social-security</p>
	March 14	MIDTERM PAPERS DUE
	March 18-22	Field Study Thessaloniki
	March 25	Greek Independence Day
12	March 27	<p>The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Depth</p> <p>Article 23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment. • Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work. • Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection. • Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests. <p>Article 24</p> <p>Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.</p> <p>Required Reading: Tomuschat, C. (2014). <i>Human rights: Between idealism and realism</i>. Oxford University Press.</p>
13	March 28	<p>The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Depth</p> <p>Article 25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control. • Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection. <p>Article 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit. • Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace. • Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children. <p>Article 27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to

		<p>share in scientific advancement and its benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author. <p>Article 28 Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.</p>
14	April 1	<p>Article 29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations. <p>Article 30 Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.</p> <p>Required Reading: United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, <i>Human Rights Indicators : A Guide to Measurement and Implementation</i> New York : United Nations. 2012.</p>
15	April 3	<p>The British Magna Carta of 1215. What is it and why is it significant for the Western Evolution of Human Rights? How did it Inform the American Revolution?</p> <p>Required Reading: The Story of Our Freedom, The Australian Human Rights Commission https://humanrights.gov.au/magnacarta/infographic/transcript.html National Archives and Records Administration. (n.d.). <i>Magna carta legacy</i>. National Archives and Records Administration. https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured-documents/magna-carta/legacy.html</p>
		Field Study Peloponnese
16	April 8	<p>Before the Magna Carta: The Ancient Origins of Human Rights: Cyrus the Great and the Cyrus Cylinder. Who was Cyrus the Great? Classroom Video: The Cyrus Cylinder, The Getty Museum https://www.getty.edu/art/exhibitions/cyrus_cylinder/ Required Viewing: The Cyrus Cylinder: The Discovery and Creation of an Icon, The Smithsonian Museum of Ancient Asian Art. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2qKQngMszM</p>
17	April 10	<p>The United States Bill of Rights of 1791 and the Constitution. <i>What is the American Bill of Rights and what do they entail?</i> Contemporary Case Studies: Gun Control, Surveillance State, Abortion Required Reading: Bill of Rights (1791), The Bill of Rights Institute https://billofrightsinstitute.org/primary-sources/bill-of-rights Required Viewing: United States of Secrets, Part One (full documentary) PBS FRONTLINE https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kaUemcqIQ-k&t=3s</p>
	April 11-21	Easter Break
18	April 22	<p>(Make Up Class) Introduction to Comparative Government and their Role in Human Rights. Consolidated Democracies, Transitional Democracies, and Authoritarian Regimes and what roles do they play in Human Rights globally and domestically? Rogue Regimes and the rise of Global Terror. Case Studies: US, UK, India China, Russia, and Iran. Required Reading: Erman, E. (2016). <i>Human rights and democracy: Discourse theory and global rights institutions</i>. Routledge.</p>
19	April 24	<p>The Global War on Terror 2001 -2021 : Torture, Extrajudicial Renditions and Drone Wars Required Reading and Viewing: The Global Impact of 9/11: Twenty Years On, The Wilson Center https://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/global-impact-911-twenty-years Required Reading: Lazarus, L., & Goold, B. J. (2019). <i>Security and human rights</i>. Bloomsbury Publishing Plc. Heupel, M., Heaphy, C., & Heaphy, J. (2022). <i>US counterterrorism and the Human Rights of foreigners abroad: Putting the gloves back on?</i> Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.</p>
20	April 29	<p>Technology and Human Rights: The Use of Artificial Intelligence in Governance and Drone Warfare.</p>

		Data Protection and Privacy in the World of Social Media Fake News and Human Rights Required Reading: AI Governance and Human Rights, Chatham House https://www.chathamhouse.org/2023/01/ai-governance-and-human-rights Required Reading: <i>What Stanford research reveals about disinformation and how to address it</i> , Stanford University https://news.stanford.edu/2022/04/13/know-disinformation-address/ Required Viewing: The Social Dilemma (2020) Netflix Documentary
21	May 6	The international Court of Justice in Depth Required Reading: <i>The United Nations, What is the ICJ for, and how does it work?</i> January 10, 2024 Link: https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/01/1145392
22	May 8	The Future of War Crimes Justice Required Reading: The Future of War Crimes Justice by Christopher Stephen Melville House Publishing, London, 2024
23	May 13	Student Presentation Based on Research Papers
24	May 15	Student Presentation Based on Research Papers FINAL PAPERS DUE

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- AI governance and Human Rights - Chatham House – International ... (n.d.-a).
<https://www.chathamhouse.org/2023/01/ai-governance-and-human-rights>
- Bill of Rights (1791)*. Bill of Rights Institute. (n.d.). <https://billofrightsinstitute.org/primary-sources/bill-of-rights>
- A brief history of disability rights in the United States*. University of Massachusetts Office of the President. (n.d.).
<https://www.umassp.edu/inclusive-by-design/who-before-how/history-disability-rights-united-states>
- Concern USA . (n.d.). *The 10 largest refugee crises to know in 2023*. Homepage. <https://concernusa.org/news/largest-refugee-crisis/#:~:text=In%20the%20past%20decade%2C%20the,are%20over%2032.5%20million%20refugees.>
- The Cyrus Cylinder and Ancient Persia: A new beginning (Getty Villa Exhibitions). (n.d.).
https://www.getty.edu/art/exhibitions/cyrus_cylinder/
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- National Archives and Records Administration. (n.d.). *Magna carta legacy*. National Archives and Records Administration.
<https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured-documents/magna-carta/legacy.html>
- Stephen, Chris. *The Future of War Crimes Justice*, Melville House Publishing, London, 2024
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<https://www.dw.com/en/how-much-blasphemy-is-allowed-in-europe/a-66314095>

Tomuschat, C. (2014). *Human rights: Between idealism and realism*. Oxford University Press.

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<https://news.stanford.edu/2022/04/13/know-disinformation-address/>

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