

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT**

Code: 33516
Name: Human rights: social rights
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 6
Academic year: 2026-27

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1311 - Degree in Social Work	Facultat de Ciències Socials	1	Second quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1311 - Degree in Social Work	Human rights: social rights	BASIC

COORDINATION

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SUMMARY

Human Rights: Social Rights is a basic formation subject of the Degree in Social Work.

The subject is aimed at introducing students to the legal dimension of social work and three basic aspects: human rights (especially social rights); legal systems as institutions that guarantee these rights, that is, the different modalities of the Rule of Law and the scope of human rights in the ethical dimension of the performance of social work.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE**

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS**COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES**



1311 - Degree in Social Work

Apply social work techniques to work effectively within systems, networks and interdisciplinary and multi-organisational teams.

Contribute to the management and direction of welfare entities.

Define proposals for resolution in situations of risk after identifying and assessing the nature of the risk.

Demonstrate critical and self-critical thinking in the field of the degree programme, considering aspects such as professional ethics, moral values and the social implications of the different activities carried out.

Demonstrate professional competence in the practice of social work.

Develop actions related to the management of resources and services, supervising their effectiveness and ensuring their quality.

Generate social histories and reports, ensuring they are comprehensive, reliable, accessible and up to date, to assist in decision-making and professional assessments.

Identify intervention methodologies in social work for interaction, support and resolution of needs and problem situations with individuals, families, groups and communities.

Identify the disciplinary knowledge necessary for the analysis of contemporary society, its structure and dynamics, including the complexity of social phenomena, adopting a multidisciplinary perspective.

Know how to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, adapting to the characteristics of the situation and the audience.

Understand the systems, organisational contexts and work teams linked to social work.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. General Introduction to Law

Structure of the legal system. Functions of law. Justice as the ultimate aim of law.

2. Human Rights: Concept and Evolution

Human rights: definition. Evolution of human rights: the processes of positivisation, generalisation, internationalisation, and specification.

Social rights as human rights: the path towards citizenship. Liberal citizenship and the process of positivisation. The generalisation of rights: the transition from the liberal state to the social state. Types of welfare state.

The evolution in the recognition of rights: processes of internationalisation and specification. Instruments for the development and codification of rights within the United Nations framework. Instruments for the



development and codification at European level. The process of specification.

3. Characteristic Features of Human Rights and Their Recognition in the Spanish Legal System

Human rights and basic needs. The indivisibility of human rights. The structural unity of rights. Human rights as subjective rights. Protected legal situations: liberty or entitlement, claim, power, and immunity. Conceptual distinction between rights and guarantees. Obligations relating to rights: duties to respect, protect, and fulfil.

Human rights and basic needs. Concept of basic needs. Needs as foundations of social rights. A catalogue of needs.

4. Principles of the Rule of Law

Protection of human rights within the Spanish legal system. Structure of sources of law. Principles of the rule of law: supremacy of law, protection of rights and freedoms, and separation of powers.

Structure of sources of law and principles of legal interpretation and application.

5. Legal Framework and Procedures for the Exercise and Enforcement of Rights, with Special Reference to Social Rights

Guarantees of rights in the Spanish legal system: general and specific guarantees. Modes of enforceability of social rights: direct and indirect enforceability.

Administrative procedures and the protection of rights before public authorities. The special contentious-administrative procedure for the protection of fundamental rights.

Protection of human rights in the international legal order. Protective mechanisms within international and regional treaties, with particular reference to mechanisms in Europe and the European Union.

6. Rights Related to the Protection of Liberty: Privacy and Control over Personal Information, and Their Implications for Social Work

The relationship between liberty and social rights. Classifications and dimensions of liberty. Contemporary challenges to liberty and autonomy.

Implications for social work. Right to privacy and control over personal information. Confidentiality and professional secrecy. Informed consent.

The code of ethics in social work: concept and purpose. International and Spanish codes of ethics. Relationships between human rights declarations and the social work code of ethics.

7. Rights Protecting Personal and Family Relationships from a Human Rights Perspective and Their Development in Spanish Law

From the family to families: aspects of an institution in continuous transformation. Protection of personal and family relationships from a human rights perspective. Protection of family and personal relationships in the Spanish legal system.

**8. Social Rights: The Rights to Education, Health, and Housing**

Right to food: content and scope of the right. Elements. Obligations. Entitlement and access, with special attention to persons in vulnerable situations.

Right to health: content and scope of the right. Elements. Obligations. Entitlement and access. The right to health of specific social groups.

Right to education: aims and purposes of education. The right to freedom of education: (a) of parents and guardians; (b) academic freedom and institutional autonomy. General obligations of the State to respect, protect, and fulfil, as well as specific obligations.

Housing rights: the right to adequate housing. Elements of the right. State obligations. Justiciability. Forced evictions.

WORKLOAD**PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES**

Activity	Hours
Theoretical and practical classes	60,00
Total hours	60,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	0,00
Independent study and work	90,00
Preparation of lessons	0,00
Preparation for assessment activities	0,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	90,00

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Classes will be delivered each week in two sessions of approximately one and a half hours each.

During the sessions dedicated to the acquisition of knowledge and skills, a combination of lectures, prescribed reading from core textbooks, and interactive learning activities will be employed to facilitate students' understanding and assimilation of the theoretical content through the analysis of cases, problem-solving exercises, and textual analysis.

During class sessions, particular attention will be drawn to the core elements of each topic, as well as to those areas that may not have been fully understood through independent reading and study of the prescribed texts. Selected sections of the syllabus will be examined in greater depth, with additional



explanations provided where concepts are especially complex. The course content is set out in the textbooks listed in the core bibliography.

The final assessment (examination) will cover the contents of the syllabus and will account for 60% of the overall mark. A pass in the final examination is required in order to pass the module.

Classroom activities will include practical exercises, text commentaries, problem-solving tasks, collaborative learning activities, and similar forms of engagement, based on materials made available through the Virtual Learning Environment, which may also be used to support attendance and participation in classes.

Accordingly, the teaching methodologies employed will include:

1. Interactive lectures.
2. Participatory debates and discussions.
3. Expository activities, including theoretical presentations, seminars, and student presentations.
4. Collaborative and team-based student work.
5. Individual, group, and/or online academic tutoring and support.

The objective is not merely to acquire specific knowledge, but also to develop effective means of accessing and engaging with that knowledge. In other words, the course seeks to establish pathways to learning that facilitate retention and recall. Furthermore, it aims to foster a critical approach towards legal rules, cases, and situations, while developing students' capacity for analytical reasoning and independent judgement.

EVALUATION

The assessment of this module will be based on the following components:

1. Exam. Open-ended written examination designed to assess students' written communication skills, organisation of ideas, ability to apply knowledge, analytical capacity, and creativity. This component accounts for 60% of the final mark. Students must pass this examination in order to pass the module.

2. Continuous assessment of students' work throughout the course and/or their attendance and/or participation in classroom-based sessions, tutorials, and/or complementary learning activities. This component accounts for 40% of the final mark, distributed as follows:

2.1. Continuous assessment of coursework completed throughout the semester, with particular emphasis on individual and collaborative working skills, the identification of key concepts and processes, and the preparation and completion of exercises and problem-solving tasks. This component accounts for 25% of the final mark.

In any event, students shall be entitled to pass the module at the resit assessment opportunity by taking an examination through which they will be assessed on all recoverable continuous assessment activities.



Marks obtained for non-recoverable assessment activities will be retained.

2.2. Attendance and participation in classroom-based sessions, tutorials, and complementary learning activities will also be taken into consideration. This component accounts for 15% of the final mark.

The continuous assessment mark will be carried forward to the resit assessment opportunity.

Please note that plagiarism is defined as "the dishonest act of substantially copying the work of others and presenting it as one's own" (Reducindo et al., 2017, p. 300). Likewise, cyberplagiarism "occurs when a piece of work is presented as the result of personal effort when, in reality, it consists of information copied partially, substantially, or entirely from another author without any form of acknowledgement or bibliographic reference. This commonly occurs with online texts [...]" (Sarriá & De Francisco, 2018, p. 4).

Avoiding such practices requires the responsible and ethical use of information in academic work. The APA Publication Manual (7th edition) constitutes an essential framework for ensuring academic integrity, as will be explained in the continuous assessment tasks submitted throughout the semester.

Furthermore, from the second semester of the first year onwards, particular attention will be paid across all modules, within the continuous assessment of coursework, to compliance with the principles of academic integrity and respect for the intellectual property rights of others. This will be assessed through the appropriate citation, referencing, and presentation of academic work in accordance with APA (7th edition) guidelines.

REFERENCES

- Añón, M. J. [et al.]. (2004). Lecciones de derechos sociales. Tirant lo Blanch, 2a ed.
- Pisarello, Gerardo (2007). Los derechos sociales y sus garantías. Elementos para una reconstrucción. Trotta.
- Abramovich, V. i Curtis, Ch. (2002). Los derechos sociales como derechos exigibles. Trotta.
- ONU (2012). indicadores de derechos humanos. Guía para la medición y la aplicación. Nueva York y Ginebra.