



**RIGA
GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF
LAW**



**Funded by
the European Union**

RGSL SUMMER SCHOOL, 7-15 AUGUST 2023

Title	EU Fundamental Values in Times of Crisis
Total hours	40
Credit points	4 ECTS
Prerequisites	Knowledge of the basics of the European Union law Knowledge of the European system of human rights protection

SUMMER SCHOOL LECTURER(S)

Name and surname	Academic degree	Academic position
Ilze Rūse	Dr.phil.	Professor
Ineta Ziemele	PhD	Professor
Natalja Točelovska	PhD	Assistant Professor
Francesco Luigi Gatta	PhD	Visiting Professor
Filip Cyuńczyk	PhD	Visiting Lecturer
Anastasija Kaplane	LL.M	Lecturer
Linda I. Kronberga	LL.M	Lecturer
Viktorija Soņeca	LL.M	Visiting Lecturer

ABSTRACT

This course examines how the European Union's (EU) fundamental values are being challenged in times of crisis such as the 2014 refugee crisis and terrorist attacks in Paris and Brussels in 2015 and 2016. The course then explores the EU response to external conflicts via humanitarian action as well as the notion of European solidarity. The UK's withdrawal from the EU (also known as Brexit) and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on human rights and the rule of law are also discussed.

The course aims to illustrate that every crisis is multi-dimensional and can be viewed from various perspectives: thus, for example, a financial crisis does not only have economic consequences but a broader range of implications. Similarly, the COVID-19 pandemic will have broad long-term effects: economic, political, legal, and social.

After completing the course, the students will be able to critically analyse the crises that the European Union faced during the second decade of the 21st century. They will be able to identify political and legal challenges in the implementation of European values and offer appropriate solutions. Apart from looking at past experiences, the course will discuss possible future crises and examine the available instruments to counter them.

The structure of the course aims to keep a balance between theory and practice. The lectures are combined with practical sessions (seminars, workshops), during which the students would be able to apply the acquired knowledge.

The final session of the course is a debate, involving scholars, policymakers, and other stakeholders. The policy debate will serve as a conclusion of the course, offering at the same time a larger platform for discussion of current challenges the EU faces. The debate will be open to a broader audience.

COURSE SESSIONS

Session	Covered subjects and mandatory reading materials	Lecturer
1	Opening lecture by Prof. Ineta Ziemele	Prof. Ineta Ziemele
2	Setting the scene Notion and evolution of EU fundamental values Conceptualising “crisis”	Anastasija Kaplane
3	Why do we need the Charter of Fundamental Rights? Role of human rights in the EU legal order	Viktorija Soņeca
4	The 2015 refugee crisis: between solidarity and responsibility	Dr. Francesco Luigi Gatta
5	2014 refugee crisis: group workshop	Dr. Francesco Luigi Gatta
6	Study visit to the European Commission Representation in Latvia	
7	2015 and 2016 terrorist attacks in Europe	Linda I. Kronberga

Session	Covered subjects and mandatory reading materials	Lecturer
8	Seminar: Seminar: the 2014 conflict in Ukraine and the annexation of Crimea Examining the European response to Russian actions in Ukraine	Linda I. Kronberga
9	Study visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia	
10	Response of the EU External action on crisis outside the EU borders	Prof. Ilze Rūse
11	Rise of populist movements in the EU	Filip Cyuńczyk
12	COVID-19 and implications for the freedom of movement	Viktorija Soņeca
13	COVID-19 and fundamental rights: a constant balancing act Examining the effects of the pandemic on the enjoyment of human rights	Anastasija Kaplane
14	EU enlargement: a potential overstretch?	Viktorija Soņeca
15	The financial side of the crisis: financial crisis types, factors causing the crisis, frequency, and implications. Predicting the next financial crisis.	Assistant Prof. Natalja Točelovska
16	Study visit to the Bank of Latvia	
17	Group presentations	
18	The final debate: the future of EU values? List of possible speakers: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof. Ineta Ziemele, Judge at the Court of Justice of the European Union 2. Prof. Ilze Rūse, Ambassador of Latvia to Sweden, former Director of the European Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia 3. Inga Reine, Judge at the General Court of the European Union 4. Dr. Francesco Gatta, Professor of EU Law at the University of Tuscia 5. Mārtiņš Zemītis, Head of Policy Unit of the European Commission Representation in Latvia 6. Kārlis Bukovskis, Deputy Director of the Latvian Institute of International Affairs 	

Session	Covered subjects and mandatory reading materials	Lecturer
	7. Filip Cyuńczyk, Assistant Professor at the SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities Please note that the final list of panelists will be confirmed later.	