

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY

Professor: **Eugénie MERIEAU**

Session: **July 2026**

Language of instruction: **English**

Number of hours of class: **36h**



Objective of the Course

This course aims to train students on how to successfully engage in human rights advocacy in various settings (courts, NGOs, United Nations), while being able to critically reflect on key legal and philosophical human rights controversies.



Summary

This course provides an overview of the terrain of international human rights advocacy, including forms of action, strategies, and methods. It also works as a laboratory for reflecting on and testing innovative methods of human rights work. Students will have the opportunity to reflect on core theoretical problems and confront their views on practical case studies by applying their human rights knowledge to practical situations. In particular, this course will help students develop their advocacy skills by introducing them to the methods of strategic litigation, working with the UN, and working with the community – all the while reflecting on critical ethical dilemmas.



Organisation of the course

Each session is dedicated to one particular human rights theme and articulated around 1- an introductory lecture and discussion based on pre-assigned readings 2- a real-situation practical exercise where students will have to collectively draft and present statements, press releases, complaints or urgent appeals.

As much as possible, external Paris-based human rights advocates will also be invited to present their advocacy work to the class and engage in a discussion on their chosen methods and strategies. The course is divided into four overarching themes: 'Core Human Rights Treaties and Mechanisms', 'Civil and Political Rights', 'Socio-economic

Rights’, and ‘The Future of Human Rights’. Possible themes may include (TBA depending on the availability of external human rights advocates): hate speech, blasphemy, memorial laws, domestic violence, pornography, universal basic income, animal testing, etc.



Professor's Biography



Eugénie Mérieau is an Associate Professor of Public Law at the Panthéon-Sorbonne University (Paris 1 – Panthéon-Sorbonne) and a member of the Sorbonne Institute for Legal and Philosophical Research (CNRS – UMR 8103).

Prior to joining the Panthéon-Sorbonne, she has held various academic appointments at Harvard University, the National University of Singapore, the University of Göttingen, Thammasat

University and Sciences-Po.

As a human rights practitioner, she has worked as a consultant for various agencies of the United Nations and the European Commission, as well as local and international NGOs, most notably with the International Commission of Jurists.