

Course Description of Democracy & Human Rights

First Year Class, First Semester

This course introduces students to the fundamental concepts of democracy and human rights, their historical development, characteristics, sources, and major forms. It examines political participation, civil and political rights, international human-rights law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the rights of women and children, with attention to religious, Sharia, and legal perspectives.

1. Educational Institution	Al-Zahrawi University - Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
2. University Department / Center	Clinical Laboratory Sciences
3. Course Name / Code	Democracy & Human Rights
4. Programs in which it is included	Bachelor Program
5. Available Forms of Attendance	Classroom attendance
6. Semester / Year	First Semester / First Year
7. Total Number of Study Hours	30 Hours (2 hours/week × 15 weeks)
8. Total Credits	2 Credits (2 Theory + 0 Practical)
9. Date of preparing this description	2026

Course Objectives: This course aims to enable students to:

- Define human rights and identify their main characteristics, sources, and historical stages of development.
- Understand democracy, its origins, concepts, characteristics, foundations, forms, advantages, and limitations.
- Recognize how political rights are practiced within democratic systems.
- Understand civil and political rights and the main categories of human rights in international law.
- Become familiar with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international covenants and treaties concerning human rights.
- Discuss women's and children's rights and compare selected religious, Sharia, and legal perspectives on rights.

Knowledge and Understanding

- Explain the meaning, emergence, characteristics, requirements, pillars, and types of democracy.
- Describe majority-rule systems, common democratic principles, and civil and political rights.
- Identify major types of human rights recognized in international law and the role of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Subject-Specific Skills

- Differentiate among major democratic concepts and systems.
- Discuss human-rights issues using political, legal, international, and religious perspectives.
- Analyze issues related to women's and children's rights and the relationship between Sharia and law.

Teaching and Learning Methods

- Theoretical lectures, PowerPoint presentations, guided discussion, reading activities, case examples, debates, and small-group learning.

Evaluation Methods

- Written examinations, quizzes, assignments, oral questions, presentations, discussion participation, and short reports.

Thinking Skills

- Compare different concepts and models of democracy.
- Analyze human-rights questions from legal, social, political, and religious perspectives.
- Evaluate the relationship between democratic principles, political participation, and protection of human rights.

General and Transferable Skills

- Develop critical thinking, respectful dialogue, civic awareness, communication, teamwork, and responsible participation.

11. Course Structure

Weeks	Hours	Required Learning Outcomes	Unit Name / Course or Topic	Learning Methods	Evaluation Method
1	2 HOURS	Knowledge, understanding and critical discussion	Definition of Democracy Meaning of democracy; basic terminology and introductory concepts.	PowerPoint presentations, lecture, guided discussion, reading and case examples	Quizzes, assignments, oral questions, discussion and written assessment
2	2 HOURS	Knowledge, understanding and critical discussion	Origins and Different Concepts of Democracy Historical emergence of democracy; different concepts and interpretations of democracy.	PowerPoint presentations, lecture, guided discussion, reading and case examples	Quizzes, assignments, oral questions, discussion and written assessment
3	2 HOURS	Knowledge, understanding and critical discussion	Characteristics of the Democratic System Main characteristics and features of democratic political systems.	PowerPoint presentations, lecture, guided discussion, reading and case examples	Quizzes, assignments, oral questions, discussion and written assessment
4	2 HOURS	Knowledge, understanding and critical discussion	Conditions, Foundations and Pillars of Democracy Requirements, foundations, essential pillars and conditions necessary for democratic practice.	PowerPoint presentations, lecture, guided discussion, reading and case examples	Quizzes, assignments, oral questions, discussion and written assessment
5	2 HOURS	Knowledge, understanding and critical discussion	Types of Democracy and Democracy in Islam Major types of democracy; democracy in Islamic thought and context.	PowerPoint presentations, lecture, guided discussion, reading and case examples	Quizzes, assignments, oral questions, discussion and written assessment
6	2 HOURS	Knowledge, understanding and critical discussion	Majority-Rule Systems Concept and forms of majority rule; political decision-making and representation.	PowerPoint presentations, lecture, guided discussion, reading and case examples	Quizzes, assignments, oral questions, discussion and written assessment
7	2 HOURS	Knowledge, understanding and critical discussion	Advantages and Disadvantages of Democracy Positive aspects, limitations, challenges and criticisms of democratic systems.	PowerPoint presentations, lecture, guided discussion, reading and case examples	Quizzes, assignments, oral questions, discussion and written assessment
8	2 HOURS	Knowledge, understanding and critical discussion	Common Principles and Systems of Democracy Shared democratic principles; major democratic systems and institutional arrangements.	PowerPoint presentations, lecture, guided discussion, reading and case examples	Quizzes, assignments, oral questions, discussion and written assessment
9	2 HOURS	Knowledge, understanding and critical discussion	Civil and Political Rights Concept, scope and examples of civil and political rights.	PowerPoint presentations, lecture, guided discussion, reading and case examples	Quizzes, assignments, oral questions, discussion and written assessment
10	2 HOURS	Knowledge, understanding and critical discussion	Types of Human Rights in International Law I Classification and major categories of human rights under international law.	PowerPoint presentations, lecture, guided discussion, reading and case examples	Quizzes, assignments, oral questions, discussion and written assessment

11	2 HOURS	Knowledge, understanding and critical discussion	Types of Human Rights in International Law II Continuation of human-rights categories and their international legal framework.	PowerPoint presentations, lecture, guided discussion, reading and case examples	Quizzes, assignments, oral questions, discussion and written assessment
12	2 HOURS	Knowledge, understanding and critical discussion	Universal Declaration of Human Rights Background, principles, structure and significance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.	PowerPoint presentations, lecture, guided discussion, reading and case examples	Quizzes, assignments, oral questions, discussion and written assessment
13	2 HOURS	Knowledge, understanding and critical discussion	Differences in Rights Across Religions Perspectives on rights in different religions and related ethical and social considerations.	PowerPoint presentations, lecture, guided discussion, reading and case examples	Quizzes, assignments, oral questions, discussion and written assessment
14	2 HOURS	Knowledge, understanding and critical discussion	Women's and Children's Rights Major principles concerning the rights and protection of women and children.	PowerPoint presentations, lecture, guided discussion, reading and case examples	Quizzes, assignments, oral questions, discussion and written assessment
15	2 HOURS	Knowledge, understanding and critical discussion	Women's Rights between Sharia and Law Women's rights from Sharia and legal perspectives; areas of relationship and comparison.	PowerPoint presentations, lecture, guided discussion, reading and case examples	Quizzes, assignments, oral questions, discussion and written assessment

Name of the Instructor: Dr. Salem Ezerjawi

12. Infrastructure

Required Readings / References	1. Hamid Hanoun, Political Systems (الأنظمة السياسية). 2. Hashim Al-Milani, Democracy from the Greeks to the Postmodern World (الديمقراطية من الإغريق إلى عالم ما بعد الحداثة). 3. Dr. Maher Saleh, Human and Child Rights and Democracy (حقوق الإنسان والطفل والديمقراطية).
Special Requirements (Workshops, Journals, Software, Websites)	Relevant legal and human-rights documents, international declarations and conventions, audiovisual materials, academic readings, and discussion resources.
Social Services (Guest Lectures, Professional Training, Field Studies, Others)	Guest lectures, seminars, student debates, awareness activities, and relevant academic or community events where applicable.
Prerequisites	Admission according to the central academic plan
Minimum Number of Students	Not specified
Maximum Number of Students	According to the approved admission capacity