The objective of the course is to develop a comparative analysis of the regime of fundamental rights and freedoms through their international and constitutional foundations, in a perspective of globalization. The comparative approach will emphasize the interactions of international and national systems as well as the emergence of a global conception of the rule of law and will focus in particular on the increasing role of judges for an effective protection of human rights. Debates between universalism of rights and cultural relativism and more generally, the impact of rights and freedoms on law and society will be addressed throughout the course.

The course begins with an introduction on concepts of human rights and fundamental freedoms, their importance in international relations and the need for democratic institutions to organize their protection. The link between development of rights and globalization of the law will be considered along with the debate around conflicts of rights and the various conceptions of human rights challenges throughout the world today. The course's analyses include the regimes of the right to life, freedom of expression and freedom of religion, privacy rights, equality rights as well as procedural and habeas corpus rights. The question of effectiveness of rights in modern political systems will be discussed in relation with the search of new global democratic criteria.

B. A. Simmons, Mobilizing for Human Rights: International Law in Domestic Politics, Cambridge University Press, 2009