



HOCHSCHULE TRIER

Umwelt-Campus Birkenfeld

Umwelt macht Karriere.

HOCHSCHULE TRIER · Umwelt-Campus Birkenfeld
Postfach 13 80 · 55761 Birkenfeld

Neubrücke (Nahe),
14.10.2020

PROPOSAL FOR INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL EXCHANGE

COVID 19: ETHICAL DILEMMAS AND HUMAN RIGHTS – EXPLORING INTERNATIONAL DIMENSIONS

I. Framework

- **Lecturers:** Prof. Dr. Kathrin Nitschmann, Prof. Dr. Milena Valeva
- **Department:** UW/UR
- **Topic:** Ethical dilemmas and human rights in the context of Corona in an international perspective
- **Field:** Ethics and Human Rights
- **Partners:** +/- 5 participating countries worldwide
- **Virtual Home of the project:** StudIP/Open Olat or other
- **Language:** English
- **Duration:** April to June 2021 or summer school in July depending on partners
- **Credits:** 5 ECTS (for German students)
- **Context:** Covid 19 has led to severe restrictions of fundamental liberties worldwide and thus enhanced debates on ethics and human rights. This debate appears as a common denominator connecting citizens in countries all over the world. One of the concrete consequences for students was certainly the reduction of mobility, not only in the sense of not being allowed to visit the university but also in canceling planned international exchanges.

In this context, the virtual exchange offers a chance not only to overcome the still lasting restrictions on mobility but also to exchange daily life experiences of students in Covid-





times, merging into restrictions and/or violation of human rights in a legal and ethical dimension.

The present boom of global discussions on the adequacy and extent of the Covid-19 measures is a evidence of the need of academic basic reflections on this topic. Such a profound reflection requires the consideration of the both perspectives: ethical and legal.

II. Teaching workflow & methods

1. Five sessions input by the participating professors (ethics/law)
2. One session interculture approach accompanied by facilitators to accompany the intercultural communication and enhance the intercultural output
3. One session introduction to design sprint method*
4. Four sessions workshop format for conducting the design sprint methods with the defined different groups
5. One closing session – presentation of the final results, feedback

*Design sprint method: project-oriented innovation method for rapid development of solutions. It consists of the following stages: Understand, Sketch, Decide, Prototype, Validate

III. Objectives and outcomes:

Students learn about different ethical and legal perspectives in the context of concrete human rights, whereby they:

- develop a broad understanding of Human Rights under a legal and ethical consideration
- analyze the content of particular human rights affected by national “Corona-measures” from an ethical and legal point of view
- compare the Corona-affected particular human rights on the background of the general concept of human rights

Students apply their knowledge to concrete pandemic-measures in different countries, whereby they:

- identify limits of human rights in pandemic times
- recognize and develop solutions of ethical dilemmas caused by pandemic-measures



- evaluate different measures in the given countries under the light of human rights and ethics
- derive a transcultural understanding /concept of human rights in times of global crisis considering ethical and legal perspectives

Students deepen their awareness of intercultural contexts and competences, whereby they:

- are able to express themselves and discuss in a foreign language (legal/ethical terminology)
- are able to interact and reason effectively with people from another countries (in professional contexts) in a heterogenous/interdisciplinary context
- analyze and reflect on the impact on culture on study/professional contexts

IV. Output of the project

1. The interculturally mixed groups of students write reports focusing on the formulated objectives and outcomes (III.):

- a. the comparison of the different measures in the given countries under the light of human rights and ethics**
- b. the development of a transcultural understanding /concept of human rights in times of global crisis considering ethical and legal perspectives**
- c. a reflection of the diversity of intercultural understandings within the context of the given topic

2. Publishing the students reports and input given by the participating professors as an open access publication

V. Sustainability of the project

1. Establishing interdisciplinary networks on student/teaching level
2. Connecting Trier University of Applied Science with chosen Universities worldwide
3. Prototyping this Virtual Exchange Concept in terms of rapid development of applicable solutions of complex intercultural and interdisciplinary embedded challenges
4. The concept is applicable to different disciplines and faculties