

JAMR31, Human Rights and the Right to Development, 7.5 credits

Human Rights and the Right to Development, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Faculty of Law Board of education at undergraduate and postgraduate levels on 2012-09-05 to be valid from 2012-09-05, autumn semester 2012.

General Information

The course Human Rights and the Right to Development is an elective course within the Master's Programme in International Human Rights Law at the Faculty of Law. The course is open to students on the programme leading to a Swedish Professional Law degree and who follow the Master's Programme in International Human Rights Law in their studies at advanced level.

The course is scheduled to require 5 weeks of full time studies.

Language of instruction: English

Lectures and course material are in English.

Main field of studies

Human Rights

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

The aim of the course is to explore emerging views on and possible new approaches to the Right to Development in the context of human rights and development practice.

Knowledge and understanding

To pass examination the student shall:

- show a solid knowledge of the history of and contemporary theory and practice relating to international economic, social and cultural rights
- show a solid knowledge of the core elements of the Human Rights Based Approach to Development, as it is currently understood and practiced in the UN system and elsewhere
- demonstrate basic familiarity with widely referenced theory and standards related to development demonstrate familiarity with core international systems and institutions related to human rights and/or development
- show a solid knowledge of the history of, and current leading views related to, the concept of a Right to Development.

Competence and skills

To pass examination the student shall:

- demonstrate the ability to draw effectively and critically upon multiple sources, including but not limited to legal sources, to explore an emerging international human rights standard
- demonstrate the ability to analyze international human rights standards from the perspective of their practical implications for states, international organizations, civil society, communities, and individuals, in the context of development

Judgement and approach

To pass examination the student shall:

- show the ability to discuss critically the evolution of legal concepts related to human rights and development
- show the ability to think creatively while drawing on a solid knowledge of relevant scholarship

Course content

The course helps students to explore, on the basis of a solid grounding in law, theory and scholarship, the current status and future potential of the Right to Development as a functional human rights standard to guide national and international development practice.

The course introduces students to the state of the field with regard to human rights and development, including:

- the basic concepts and standards relating to sustainable development
- the evolving law and practice of economic, social and cultural rights
- the theoretical and practical components of the Human Rights-Based Approach to Development as currently understood in the UN system and elsewhere
- field-based tools for integrating human rights into development policy and practice (eg, human rights measurement, rights-based budget analysis, human rights impact assessment)
- the central relevant international human rights and/or development institutions and mechanisms
- the history of the Right to Development

- the contents of the Declaration on the Right to Development
- the current limited role of the Right to Development in international development practice
- the core current theoretical approaches to the Right to Development, including views on what gaps it might fill in contemporary human rights and development practices.

Subsequently, the course explores what it would mean to make the Right to Development more functional. How can the right best be understood in the light of current international human rights law? What does it add to international development practice? Where might the right go in the future?

Course design

The students obtain knowledge and competences as indicated above by individual studies of course literature and other course material, and by taking part in lectures and seminars.

Instruction is given in the form of lectures and discussions, with students expected to contribute actively during class sessions.

Assessment

Examination consists of a written open-book take-home exam at the end of the course. A portion of the exam will be designed to allow each student to conduct a limited amount of independent research and analysis on a Right to Development-related topic of his or her choosing.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with credit, Pass with distinction.

One of the following grades is given: Pass with Distinction (AB), Pass with Credit (BA), Pass (B) or Fail (U).

All grading criteria rest on the baseline set up for the grade B. Criteria for the grade BA are additional to those for the grade B. Criteria for the grade AB are additional to those for the grade BA. Each grade criterion consists of a qualitative and a quantitative dimension. To be awarded a specific grade, the grade criterion must be satisfied in its qualitative as well as its quantitative dimension.

Grading criteria are applied to all dimensions listed as "Learning outcomes" in this syllabus. By way of example, an AB would presuppose that the student's examination reflect her or his mastery with regard to knowledge and understanding, skills and abilities and values and attitudes as laid down in the syllabus as "learning outcomes". Grading is done primarily using Qualitative and Quantitative criteria. The Quantitative criterion reflects how well read the student is whereas the Qualitative criterion reflects how well the student can use his/her knowledge to make a well structured critical and analytical argument and put it in a proper context.

B – Basic command

In order to pass the student must show good knowledge of current standards for international economic, social and cultural rights; good knowledge of core elements of the Human Rights-Based Approach to Development as it is currently understood; and good knowledge of the history of, basic elements included in, and core current debates surrounding the application of the Declaration on the Right to Development.

BA – Advanced command

In order to achieve this grade, the student must show very good knowledge of the history of and contemporary theory related to international economic, social and cultural rights; of the history of the Human Rights-Based Approaches to Development and of the current debates surrounding it; and of the history and content of the Declaration of the Right to Development.

The student must be able to demonstrate basic knowledge of core concepts and standards related to sustainable international development. The student must be able to demonstrate familiarity with international institutions and mechanisms of particular relevance to human rights and development.

The student must show familiarity with the central contemporary debates concerning the application of the Right to Development to national and international policy and programming.

The student must be able to draw on his or her broad knowledge of human rights law and mechanisms, in combination with the materials offered in the course, to analyse the contents of the Right to Development in the broader context of international human rights law and practice.

AB – Mastery

In order to achieve the highest grade the student must be able to draw on multiple sources, including non-legal sources, to analyze cogently the content of the right to development in the light of contemporary human rights and development practice.

The student must be able to explore independently a particular aspect of human rights and development, drawing not only on the course materials but also on other relevant sources, including for instance other international legal documents or scholarship or reports in the fields of human rights and/or development, as a basis for discussion and analysis.

The student must be able to express his or her ideas clearly and concisely in writing.

Entry requirements

Passed examination in courses corresponding to the first year of the Master's programme equivalent to 52.5 credits.

Further information

The University views plagiarism as a very serious academic offence, and will take disciplinary actions against students for any kind of attempted malpractice in connection with examinations and assessments. The penalty that may be imposed for this, and other unfair practice in examinations or assessments, includes suspension from the University.

Subcourses in JAMR31, Human Rights and the Right to Development

Applies from H12

1201 Human Rights and the Right to Development, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with credit, Pass with distinction