

## **JAMR40, International Human Rights Law I, 15 credits**

*Internationella mänskliga rättigheter I, 15 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 2015-12-03 (U 2015/461) and was last revised on 2025-10-16 (U 2025/823). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2025-10-20 and is valid from the autumn semester 2025.

### **General information**

The course International Human Rights Law I is a compulsory course within the Master's Programme in International Human Rights Law at the Faculty of Law. The course is open to students within the Swedish Professional Law degree programme, specialising in International Human Rights Law. The course is also open to international students participating in exchange programmes with the Faculty of Law.

*Language of instruction:* English

|                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Main field of study</i> | <i>Specialisation</i> |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|

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

### **Learning outcomes**

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

To pass examination the student shall show:

- understanding of the history, characteristics, ambitions and critiques of the IHRL movement
- understanding of the institutions set to implement IHRL at the international, regional and state level
- understanding of IHRL sources, IHRL norms, tools and techniques in constructing IHRL arguments.

## Competence and skills

To pass examination the student shall

- be able to critically assess the history, characteristics, ambitions and critiques of the IHRL movement
- be able to critically assess the characteristics, abilities and limitations of human rights institutions whether on the international, regional or state level
- be able to use IHRL sources, IHRL norms, tools and techniques in the constructing of IHRL arguments.

## Judgement and approach

To pass the examination the student shall be able to

- identify, evaluate, compare, critically assess and apply judicial, administrative and other legal sources
- appreciate strengths and weaknesses in academic and legal argumentation
- adhere to academic standards of communication within the field of international human rights law as reflected in academic journals.

## Course content

The course is the first dedicated International Human Rights Law (IHRL) course on the Master's programme. Following immediately after the course in International Law, the course provides a platform for further inquiry – both in and beyond the programme – into IHRL, from a global perspective.

The course is divided into three modules. Module 1 introduces ideas of human rights, including critical perspectives, and also explores how IHRL contributes in practical ways to changes in lived experience in a variety of contexts.

Module 2 focuses on the international system for the protection of human rights. It examines the structure and function of institutions under the UN Charter and UN Treaty systems and covers a selection of substantive rights under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, amongst other sources.

Finally, Module 3 introduces students to a series of contemporary challenges in international human rights law through a series of workshops facilitated by experts in their fields with the purpose of supporting application of human rights law.

## Course design

A variety of learning methods are used on the course, including group discussions, interactive lectures and seminars.

## Assessment

Assessment is conducted throughout the course and consists of the following:

- Portfolio, in the form of self-documented participation and final course reflection (15% of the final grade). The portfolio documents how students have participated over the duration of the course. A 'participation journal' assignment has been created for each of the sessions on the course. Students need to make at least one submission across each of the three course modules.
- Written examination on legal standards and principles of international human rights law (25% of the final grade)
- Final paper (60% of the final grade)

To pass the course, the student must pass all examination parts separately.

Submission of assignments by set deadlines is required. Late submission will result in a progressive reduction of points.

All work must be independently produced by the student.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

## Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with Credit, Pass with Distinction

### **B – Basic command**

To achieve the grade B students must show basic command of the history, characteristics, ambitions and critiques of the IHRL movement. Students must further be able to show basic command of the characteristics, abilities and limitations of human rights institutions whether on the international, regional or state level. Finally students must be able to show ability to use legal sources, tools and techniques in the construction of IHRL arguments.

### **BA – Advanced command**

To earn the grade BA students must show advanced command of the history, characteristics, ambitions and critiques of the IHRL movement and the ability to independently analyse contemporary problems of IHRL from these perspectives. Student must also be able to show advanced command of the characteristics, benefits and limitations of key IHRL institutions whether on the international, regional or state level. Also here students must be able to show an ability to independently analyse contemporary problems from these perspectives. Finally, students must be able to show advanced command of legal sources, tools and techniques in the construction of IHRL arguments.

### **AB – Mastery**

To earn the grade AB students must show mastery of the history, characteristics, ambitions and critiques of the IHRL movement, and proficiency in independently analysing contemporary problems of IHRL from these perspectives. Further, students must show mastery of the characteristics, benefits and limitations of key IHRL institutions whether on the international, regional or state level. Also here students must be able to show proficiency in independent analysis of contemporary problems. Finally, students must be able to show mastery of legal sources, tools and techniques in the construction of IHRL arguments.

## **Entry requirements**

Students within the Master's Programme in International Human Rights Law qualify automatically for this course.

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: prerequisites are stated in the curriculum for the Master of Law Programme at the Faculty of Law.

Exchange students must have passed at least two and a half years of law studies at university level.

## **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.