



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Law

JAMR46, Contemporary Human Rights Issues, 7.5 credits *Aktuella frågor inom mänskliga rättigheter, 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 2023-05-31 to be valid from 2023-05-31, autumn semester 2023.

General Information

The course Contemporary Human Rights Issues is an elective course within the Master's Programme in International Human Rights Law at the Faculty of Law. The course is also an elective course for students within the programme leading to a Swedish professional degree Master of Laws within the specialization in International Human Rights Law.

Language of instruction: 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

To pass the examination, the student shall be able to demonstrate knowledge and competences as below:

Knowledge and understanding

- an in-depth knowledge of the scope, normative content and practical application of the international legal rights relevant to the specific complex issues examined in the course
- a thorough understanding of the sources of international law, including treaty law, customary international law and 'soft law' instruments relevant to the issues examined
- an in-depth knowledge of the classical and more recent ways of responding to the human rights issues raised in the course, primarily from a legal perspective

This is a translation of the course syllabus approved in Swedish

but also from an interdisciplinary perspective

- good and broad awareness of current legal and policy developments in addressing the contemporary human rights issues addressed in the course.

Competence and skills

- the ability to identify and formulate legal problems concerned with complex contemporary human rights issues
- good research skills including the search, processing and analysis of relevant sources of law and other material, including empirical material
- the ability to make use of the legal-technical knowledge and perspective acquired throughout the course
- the ability to solve cases concerning complex contemporary human rights issues within a limited period of time and to present the results orally and in writing
- the ability to work both individually and in groups
- the ability to critically assess and comment constructively on arguments and theories concerned with complex contemporary human rights issues

Judgement and approach

- The ability to articulate the theoretical underpinnings and legal basis of the specific human rights issues examined during the course
- The ability to distinguish between legal arguments and arguments based on political and other considerations in the international context
- Insights into the constraints of developing and identifying effective responses to the contemporary human rights issues examined throughout the course.

Course content

The course is intended to be coordinated by a visiting researcher at the Faculty of Law or the Raoul Wallenberg Institute. Thus the focus of the course may shift depending on the visiting researcher's research interests.

The course will cover central themes relating to specific contemporary human rights issues, and the themes will vary from year to year depending on the contextual and international relevance of the human rights issues selected. The focus of the course is to provide the students with advanced and in-depth knowledge of the complexity and multi-layered challenges of protecting human rights, both from a legal and a policy perspective. As such the course will engage with various theoretical and practical angles, examine the various implications that possible responses to human rights violations would entail, and adopt an interdisciplinary approach which is indispensable to understanding the nature of contemporary human rights issues. The course will examine the relevant human rights issues taking into consideration the interaction of international human rights law with other branches of international law; its relationship with regional and domestic contexts; and the limitations of isolated approaches to tackling complex human rights issues typical of our contemporary times.

Course design

Teaching is provided mainly in the form of lectures and seminars.

Assessment

Student performance is assessed through participation in compulsory seminars (30% of the grade) and a take home exam (70% of the grade).

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.

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.

B – Pass

In order to pass the student must be able to demonstrate a solid ability to independently to search for and to evaluate legal and other sources in the selected topic within international human rights law, the ability to conduct satisfactory analysis of a legal question in relation to different sources, good knowledge of the selected topic within international human rights law, good knowledge of key cases that have been the object of international and national adjudication, a general awareness of the development of the selected topic within international human rights law at different levels, an adequate understanding of the theoretical underpinning of the selected topic, an understanding of the relation between law and politics in this area and the ability of the student to convey their knowledge both orally and in written form.

BA – Pass with credit

In order to achieve this grade, the student must show a broad as well as deep knowledge of the selected topic within international human rights law, very good knowledge of the key cases that have been the object of international and national adjudication and how both state and non-state actors interact within an international legal system in relation to the selected topic, the ability to conduct deep and nuanced analyses of a legal question in relation to different sources, a good awareness of the development of the selected topic within international human rights law at different levels and the ability to articulate the normativity of the selected topic within international human rights law, a good understanding of the theoretical underpinning of the selected topic, the ability to respond to questions and interact with other students at presentations and seminars, the ability to carry out assignments in a timely manner and a good command of presentation and communication skills.

AB – Pass with distinction

In order to achieve the highest grade the student must, in addition to the general knowledge and skill in the overall subject of the selected topic within international human rights law required for the grade of BA, be able to demonstrate in-depth knowledge of an aspect of that topic showing a deep awareness of the historical, systematic and theoretical underpinnings of the particular aspect of the selected topic being studied. The student's independent choice of the specific aspect for in-depth study should be scientifically motivated and must demonstrate a very good ability in identifying an interesting legal topic relevant to the study of the selected topic within international human rights law. Written works shall, in particular, be of a good professional standard with regard to both the substantive content and the technical aspects.

Entry requirements

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

For students on the Professional Law Degree Programme the entry requirements for semesters 7 and 8 are outlined in the Programme syllabus (utbildningsplanen).

Exchange students must have passed at least two and a half years of law studies at university level including basic knowledge of public international law.

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 JAMR46, Contemporary Human Rights Issues

Applies from H23

2301 Take home examination, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with credit, Pass with distinction