



Faculty of Law

JUFN25, Human Rights Law, 7.5 credits

Human Rights Law, 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 2015-01-26 to be valid from 2015-01-26, spring semester 2015.

General Information

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

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Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

The aim of the course is to deepen knowledge and understanding of international human rights law. As such, to pass the course, the student must demonstrate the knowledge and competences described below.

Knowledge and understanding

- of the development, theoretical foundations, and application of international human rights law
- of the role of states and international organizations in international human rights law
- of mechanisms for the implementation of international human rights law

Competence and skills

- the ability to identify legal issues, undertake appropriate legal research, and to analyse questions of law arising within the field of human rights
- the ability to develop a reasonable legal argument within a limited period of time, and to present the results both in an oral and written manner

Judgement and approach

- the ability to discuss critically the development of human rights law
- an understanding of the interactions of states and international organizations

Course content

This course will trace the legal and political development of international human rights law. It will begin by exploring the philosophical bases of this body of law in the context of the positivist legal tradition of the 19th and early 20th centuries. It will examine the nature and substantive standards of modern human rights law, and will analyze the application of those standards in the context of case studies encompassing issues of hate speech, extraterritorial application of human rights law, and discrimination on the basis of sex and sexual orientation. It will also survey the extensive array of human rights mechanisms created under the auspices of the UN and regional intergovernmental organizations. The course will also provide a brief introduction to related areas of international law, including the international law of armed conflict (also known as international humanitarian law) and international criminal law in the strict sense.

Course design

The students will obtain the knowledge and competences indicated above by individual study of course literature and other course material, and by taking an active part in class discussion, role plays, and other in-class activities.

Instruction will be given principally in the form of structured discussion and role-plays, aiming at a deeper understanding and application of the relevant law.

Assessment

Attendance is crucial to the attainment of course objectives. The course is designed to be highly participatory, and will involve in-class exercises and simulations. Each student's level of engagement will be a significant factor in grading.

Evaluation will be based on:

- One-third: Class participation (including class preparation and active participation in class discussion, as well as active participation in in-class exercises)
- One-third: Final simulation (oral proceedings)
- One-third: Final simulation (written submission)

For the final simulation, students will work in teams. They will prepare a written submission and present an oral argument before classmates sitting as a relevant international or regional body. They will be questioned intensively during their presentations by their classmates and by the course instructors. They will then be given time to revise their written documents before final submission.

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.

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. Grading criteria are applied to all dimensions listed as "Learning outcomes" in this syllabus.

B – Basic command

In order to pass the student must show adequate knowledge about how international human rights law is created, interpreted, and applied.

The student must be able to demonstrate basic knowledge about international human rights law, to understand the role of states and international organizations in this field, and to spot relevant legal issues and to develop and articulate appropriate legal arguments.

BA – Advanced command

In order to achieve this grade the student must demonstrate the above to a higher degree (e.g. a very good level of knowledge).

AB – Mastery

In order to achieve this grade the student must demonstrate the above to an even higher degree (e.g. a truly excellent level of knowledge).

Entry requirements

Students must have basic knowledge of public international law.

For students studying for the professional Degree Master of Laws: prerequisites for studies on the 7th or 8th semester stated in the Curriculum for the Law Study programme.

Prerequisites for international exchange students: relevant undergraduate studies corresponding to three years at a 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.

Subcourses in JUFN25, Human Rights Law

Applies from V15

1501 Human Rights Law, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with credit, Pass with distinction