

Faculty of Law

JUXJ03, International Human Rights Law, 15 credits

Internationella mänskliga rättigheter, 15 högskolepoäng First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Faculty of Law Board of education at undergraduate and postgraduate levels on 2024-02-28 (U 2024/70) and was last revised on 2025-09-03 (U 2025/662). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2025-09-15 and is valid from the spring semester 2026.

General information

The course International Human Rights Law is an optional course open to students participating in international exchange programmes with the Faculty of Law. The course duration is 10 weeks of full time studies.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study

Specialisation

G2F, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

To pass the examination the student shall be able to

- describe and explain the general concepts, sources, and fundamental principles of International Human Rights Law,
- identify the key normative and institutional frameworks of international and regional human rights systems,
- summarize the main debates and developments in International Human Rights Law and
- recognise and explain diverse theoretical perspectives on the future of human rights.

Competence and skills

To pass the examination the student shall be able to

- analyse and apply legal-technical knowledge and approaches to practical casebased situations in International Human Rights Law,
- identify and interpret legal issues and assess the competencies and jurisdictional scopes of international and regional human rights institutions,
- evaluate and assess case law from different regional human rights courts,
- evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of competing claims in the main debates within International Human Rights Law and
- critically assess and constructively discuss diverse perspectives concerning the future of human rights.

Judgement and approach

To pass the examination the student shall be able to

- assess the normative and theoretical justifications used to address legal problems in International Human Rights Law,
- formulate and develop well-reasoned legal arguments related to current challenges in the practice and theory of human rights and
- evaluate and interpret key normative frameworks of International Human Rights Law.

Course content

The course offers a broad introduction to the general concepts, sources and fundamental principles in International Human Rights Law.

The course consists of 4 components: (1) the fundamental concepts of human rights, (2) the international and regional bodies of human rights, (3) the substantive rights and obligations of human rights, and (4) the future of human rights.

Course design

Each of the four components consists of lectures and a workshop. The lectures are the principal form of instruction. The workshops provide the ability to consider selected aspects discussed during the lectures in more detail.

Assessment

The examination consists of two components: 70% of the final grade is determined by a take-home exam at the end of the course. The remaining 30% of the final grade is determined by a mid-term essay.

The essay is compulsory and requires the written engagement with a topic covered in class. In order to pass the course, students must pass both examination instances and attend at least 75 % of the course sessions (lectures and workshops).

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 – Pass. In order to Pass (B) the student must show basic

- insight into the structure, and the limitations of International Human Rights Law,
- knowledge and understanding of the history and development of International Human Rights Law,
- knowledge and understanding of the topics dealt with in the course and the main debates in International Human Rights Law,
- ability to critically assess the theory and practice of International Human Rights Law,
- ability to identify and interpret legal issues within the domain of International Human Rights Law,
- ability to critically evaluate legal arguments and activities and to appreciate the objectives pursued through them and the presuppositions that underpin them, and
- skills in presenting arguments, analysis and evaluation in written form.

BA – Pass with credit: In order to Pass with credit (BA) the student must show a good

- understanding of the general concepts, sources and fundamental principles of International Human Rights Law,
- knowledge and understanding of the history and development of International Human Rights Law,
- knowledge on the normative frameworks in International Human Rights Law and the ability to interpret legal issues are expected.
- understanding of the workings of international and regional human rights institutions, along with a basic comprehension of the case law of the regional courts in the field,
- comprehension of the substantive rights and obligations in human rights,
- ability to address legal questions regarding the main debates in International Human Rights Law,
- understanding on the different approaches on the future of human rights and
- proficiency in presenting in written form arguments, analysis and evaluation articulating theoretical and normative justification.

AB – Pass with distinction: To pass with distinction (AB) the student must demonstrate very good

- knowledge of the general concepts, sources and fundamental principles of International Human Rights Law,
- knowledge and understanding of the history and development of International Human Rights Law,
- knowledge and understanding of the normative frameworks, coupled with the ability to analyse and apply legal-technical knowledge,

- understanding of the competencies and jurisdictional scopes of international and regional human rights institutions, along with a basic comprehension of the case law of the regional courts in the field,
- comprehension of the substantive rights and obligations in human rights,
- ability to conduct deep analyses of legal questions regarding the main debates in International Human Rights Law,
- ability to constructively discuss on the different approaches on the future of human rights,
- capacity to critically assess and constructively discuss the strengths and weaknesses of competing claims within International Human Rights Law,
- proficiency in presenting in written form persuasive arguments, analysis and evaluation articulating theoretical and normative justification and
- ability to complete assignments in a timely manner.

Entry requirements

To register on the course a minimum of one year of law studies is needed.