

MRS G11, Human Rights Studies: Level 1, 30 credits

Mänskliga rättigheter: Introduktionskurs, 30 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the programmes director by delegation from the pro-dean for first- and second-cycle studies on 2013-04-05 and was last revised on 2025-02-20 by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology (U 2025/60). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2025-03-10 and is valid from the autumn semester 2025.

General information

The course is a compulsory component of the Bachelor of Arts programme in Human Rights Studies. The course is also offered as a freestanding course. It can normally be included in a first or second cycle degree.

Language of instruction: Swedish

Main field of study *Specialisation*

Human Rights G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry
Studies requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- account for different views on and distinctions in the concept of human rights
- provide an overview of modern history after 1789 with a focus on the nation state, colonialism and the world wars and how these are connected to the development of human rights over time
- account for and discuss the importance of a historical and history of ideas perspective to understand contemporary human rights issues

- provide a general description of the international legal system and explain how the design and limitations of the system affect the possibilities for the regulation, implementation and monitoring of human rights

Competence and skills

- using basic argumentation analysis skills, such as distinguishing between statements, arguments and theories, apply a critical approach to their own arguments as well as those of others
- discuss and communicate their ideas and those of others on the place of human rights in history and today
- for a given purpose, find, process and present different types of information on human rights with respect to a specific social situation or event
- use philosophical concepts such as right, responsibility, claim and negative and positive obligations in the analysis of a case, for example, a political conflict or a judicial process
- carry out basic information retrievals in both physical libraries and electronic collections

Judgement and approach

- in communication with others, reveal and critically examine their own ideas on the concept of human rights
- using historical knowledge, contextualise and evaluate different conceptions of human rights over time
- relate to and discuss the perspectives, limitations and expected roles of different actors in the international community of states and organisations.

Course content

The course provides a multidisciplinary overview of and introduction to human rights. Students study key ideas, concepts and values in the field of human rights as well as criticism of these. Attention is given to analytical concept and argumentation tools. The varying meanings of human rights over time is discussed with a focus on state and nation, citizenship, exclusion, colonialism, the world wars and the emergence of international cooperation organisations and social movements. The course highlights the significance of a historical perspective to understand contemporary rights issues. Furthermore, students discuss the institutionalisation of human rights in international law instruments and other systems for regulation, implementation and accountability as well as the roles and obligations of global actors.

The course consists of the following modules:

1. Human Rights as Idea and Phenomenon, 10 credits
2. Human Rights in Modern History, 10 credits,
3. Human Rights in the International System, 10 credits.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures and 2-4 seminars. Module 3 also includes a role play. Participation in the seminars and role plays is compulsory. The compulsory course components may include assignments.

If, due to circumstances beyond their control, such as accidents, sudden illness or similar, students are unable to carry out a compulsory component, the University is responsible for ensuring that an equivalent alternative or another time for the component is offered. This also applies to students participating in activities in an elected position as a student representative.

Assessment

Assessment of Module 1 is based on one written invigilated exam.

Assessment of Module 2 is based on one to two written assignments.

Assessment of Module 3 is based on one to two written assignments.

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 distinction

For the grade of Pass on the whole course, the student must have been awarded this grade on all modules. For the grade of Pass with Distinction on the whole course, the student must have been awarded this grade on at least 20 of the course credits and the grade of Pass on all remaining credits.

Entry requirements

General requirements for university studies in Sweden

Further information

- The course is offered at the Division of Human Rights Studies, Department of History, Lund University.
- The course replaces MRSG10.
- The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree. For further details, see the current registration information and other relevant documentation.
- Module titles in Swedish:
 1. Mänskliga rättigheter som idé och fenomen
 2. Mänskliga rättigheter i modern historia
 3. Mänskliga rättigheter i det internationella systemet