



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## **MRSL03, Decolonizing Women and Human Rights Discourses, 3 credits**

*Decolonizing Women and Human Rights Discourses, 3 högskolepoäng*  
**First Cycle / Grundnivå**

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2025-02-11 (U 2025/106). The syllabus comes into effect 2025-02-11 and is valid from the autumn semester 2025.

### **General information**

The course is offered as a freestanding course.

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of study*      *Specialisation*

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

### **Learning outcomes**

On completion of the course the student is to be able to:

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- at a general level account for the modern and contemporary history of the conceptualizations of women and human rights;
- account for academic critique on the epistemology and ontology of feminism and human rights studies;
- at a general level describe non-Western and Southern episteme;

## Competence and skills

- give an account of how hegemonic academic discourses have influenced mainstreaming views on feminism, women, and human rights;
- independently assess Southern contributions to international debates on women and human rights;

## Judgement and approach

- take a position on debates and opinions about feminism, colonialism, and processes of rights-making;
- assess their own expertise and identify the need for further knowledge.

## Course content

The course examines women's rights and human rights through a decolonial perspective, highlighting the work of feminist scholars from the Global South. Drawing on theories from Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Indigenous communities, students explore how rights are understood and advocated for beyond Western frameworks. The course challenges dominant human rights paradigms by analyzing how colonialism, imperialism, and capitalism have influenced mainstream discourse. Through readings, case studies, and debates, students learn to appreciate context-specific approaches that emphasize community, cultural values, and lived experiences as alternatives to hegemonic frameworks.

## Course design

Teaching is conducted through digital lectures and 1-2 compulsory seminars. Absence from a compulsory component is to be compensated for with an assignment in accordance with the instructions of the lecturer.

The course is offered entirely as a distance learning course using an online learning platform and/or digital tools. Participants are required to participate under these conditions, and to have access to a computer with an internet connection as well as functioning speakers, microphone and web camera. The department will provide information about the technical requirements.

## Assessment

Assessment of the course is based on a written assignment.

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

The grade of Pass requires a grade of Pass on all assessed components.

## Entry requirements

General requirements and studies equivalent of course English 6 from Swedish Upper Secondary School.

## Further information

- The course is offered at the Division of Human Rights Studies, Department of History, Lund University.
- 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 current registration and information materials.
- Course title in Swedish: Dekolonisering av diskurser om kvinnor och mänskliga rättigheter.