



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## **MRSLO4, State Responsibility for Human Rights Violations, 3 credits**

*State Responsibility for Human Rights Violations, 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 2025/105). 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 describe the conceptual origin of the law of state responsibility and its continued development,
- account for the different parts, actors and functions, of the international legal system,
- at a general level describe the formation of customary international law,

## Competence and skills

- give an account of the significance of state responsibility and the interaction of the states in the international legal system,
- give an account of the specific preconditions and limitations of the international human rights law based on both treaty law and customary law,

## Judgement and approach

- take a position on the criticism on the legitimacy of customary international law and formulate an individual position in relation to key critical theories,
- assess their own understanding and identify the need for further knowledge.

## Course content

The course gives an introduction to the law of state responsibility and the relation to the law of human rights. In the course, customary international law is studied as a very large and complex system in which an increasing number of negotiated agreements are added.

An overview is provided of the public international law system as a whole and expectations and ideas regarding actors, legal positivism and negotiations are problematized. In particular, the course focuses on customary law, treaty law, states sovereignty and state responsibility, which are all part of public international law and central to the functioning of human rights law in the international legal system.

## Course design

Teaching consists of digital lectures and individual work with assignments.

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 4 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

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: Statsansvar för människorättskränkningar.