



SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

MR1111 Human rights in policy and practice, 15 credits

Mänskliga rättigheter i politik och praktik, 15 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by School of Global Studies on 2023-02-06 to be valid from 2023-08-28, autumn semester of 2023.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: School of Global Studies

Position in the educational system

The course is given as a single subject course.

Main field of studies

Human Rights

Specialization

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

Entry requirements

General entrance requirements.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Describe and discuss the development and content of international human rights norms;
- Describe and discuss the mandates and strategies of actors involved in human rights work at international, national and local levels;
- Account for the human rights of specific groups;

Competence and skills

- Apply human rights norms and principles to specific policy challenges;

Judgement and approach

- Reflect upon the challenges and opportunities of working with human rights.

Course content

This course is an introduction to human rights, from core concepts, standards and institutions, to the opportunities and challenges presented by translating human rights norms into policy and practice.

The course investigates questions such as: Where do human rights come from, and what kinds of rights are recognised internationally? How does human rights law operate, and who are the main actors involved in human rights work? Do some groups have different rights from others? How can we translate international standards into concrete domestic policy? What are the theoretical and practical challenges involved in human rights work, and how can we overcome them?

To address these questions the course will introduce foundational elements of human rights, including the international human rights system and how this connects to national law and policy; the rights of specific groups; and the main types of actors involved in human rights work, including their mandates, their respective roles, and strategies. We will also look at how human rights standards can translate into concrete action in response to contemporary policy issues, and how human rights progress (or violations) can be tracked.

The course further provides a space for discussion of critiques of human rights, as well as practical challenges involved in human rights implementation.

Form of teaching

The course is campus-based and interactive. It includes lectures, seminars, group work, debates and discussions, grounded in contemporary policy issues.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

The course is examined through:

- Active participation in three compulsory seminars;
- One individual written assignment presented and discussed at a compulsory seminar.

Absence from mandatory elements will be compensated for by additional or extended written assignments according to instruction from the course leader.

If a student who has twice received a failing grade for the same examination component wishes to change examiner ahead of the next examination session, such a request should be made to the department in writing and should be approved by the department unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6 Section 22 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for study support for students with disabilities, the examiner may, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, decide to allow the student to sit an adjusted exam or alternative form of assessment.

In the event that a course has ceased or undergone major changes, students are to be guaranteed at least three examination sessions (including the ordinary examination session) over a period of at least one year, but no more than two years after the course has ceased/been changed. The same applies to internships and professional placements (VFU), although this is restricted to just one additional examination session.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U).

- Compulsory seminars are graded U/G
- Individual assignment is graded U/G/VG

In order to get a passing grade, the student must receive a G grade on all assignments and compulsory seminars.

To gain a pass with distinction, the student must receive a VG on the individual assignment and G on the compulsory seminars.

Course evaluation

The course coordinator is responsible for systematically and regularly collecting the students' views of the course, and for making sure that the results of the evaluations in different forms are taken into consideration when developing the course. The results of and possible changes to the course will be shared with students who participated in the evaluation and students who are starting the course.