



SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

MR1121 Introduction to International Human Rights in Sweden, 15 credits

Introduktion till internationella mänskliga rättigheter i Sverige, 15 högskolepoäng
First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by School of Global Studies on 2023-06-21 to be valid from 2024-01-15, spring semester of 2024.

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 the development and content of international human rights norms and institutions
- Describe the Swedish national human rights framework and its relation to international human rights norms and institutions
- Describe the mandates and strategies of actors involved in human rights work both internationally and in Sweden

Competence and skills

- Orally and in writing, analyse and account for specific challenges for human rights within a Swedish context.

Judgement and approach

- Apply norms and principles for human rights on specific political and ethical problems in Sweden as well as critically discuss challenges and opportunities for working with these issues.

Course content

This course introduces human rights in the Swedish context, from core concepts, standards and institutions, to the opportunities and challenges presented by translating human rights norms into policy and practice in Sweden.

The course investigates such issues as, for example: 1) the origins of human rights, and the kinds of rights that are recognized internationally and domestically in Sweden; 2) the way the human rights law operates both internationally and domestically in Sweden; 3) main actors involved in human rights work; 4) various groups in Swedish context and specifics of their rights; 5) translation of international standards into concrete domestic policy; 6) the theoretical and practical challenges involved in human rights work in a Swedish context and ways to overcome them; etc.

To address these issues the course will introduce and explore foundational elements of human rights, including the international human rights system and how this connects to national law and policy in Sweden; the rights of specific groups and the challenges they face in a Swedish context; and the main types of actors involved in human rights work, including their mandates, their respective roles, and strategies both internationally and in Sweden. 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 in a Swedish context.

Form of teaching

The course is completely online-based, without any on-campus assembly or activities. It includes various digital forms of teaching, online group work, and online-submitted written assignments.

Language of instruction: Swedish

Assessment

The course is examined through three written assignments prepared individually and presented orally at compulsory seminars.

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). Individual assignments are graded U/G/VG.

In order to get a passing grade (G), the student must receive a passing grade on all assignments. To gain a pass with distinction (VG), the student must receive a pass with distinction on two of the assignments and a passing grade on other assignments.

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 evaluation 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.