



SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

MR2106 State, Market and Human Rights, 15 credits

Stat, marknad och mänskliga rättigheter, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by School of Global Studies on 2021-02-02 and was last revised on 2022-06-30 to be valid from 2022-11-02, autumn semester of 2022.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: School of Global Studies

Position in the educational system

The course is a required course in the Erasmus Mundus Master's Programme in Human Rights Policy and Practice. It can also be studied as a single subject course as well as be offered to exchange students.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) Erasmus Mundus Master's Programme in Human Rights Policy and Practice (S2HRP)

Main field of studies

Human Rights Policy and Practice

Human Rights with specialization in Policy and Practice

Specialization

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

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Entry requirements

A completed BA with a minimum of 30 higher education credits in a subject within the field of Social Sciences or equivalent competence relevant to the main field of study Human Rights.

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- Identify and distinguish formal and informal actors (i.e. the state, private sector corporations, migration brokers, non-governmental organisations) processes that influence the realization of human rights in a globalizing world;
- review key authors and ideas in the field of legal anthropology and the subject areas of corporate social responsibility, mobility and human rights, insurgency, and human rights.

Competence and skills

- investigate and analyse complex phenomena, issues and situations through theoretical and conceptual approaches;
- independently collect, summarize and critically review academic texts;
- critically assess and give constructive feedback on peer papers;
- apply business and human rights standards to specific cases/examples;
- assess the impact on human rights of economic policies and business practices;

Judgement and approach

- Critically reflect upon the role and responsibilities of states and the emerging accountability of non-state actors in relation to human rights;
- analyze human rights norms and their manifestations in 'everyday' life;
- reflect on the manifestation of human rights norms in contested environments, such as in the context of 'irregular' transnational migration and civil conflict.

Course content

This course studies contentious human rights issues that emerge on the intersection of state authority, market dynamics and political contestation. The module encourages critical thinking about challenges spurred by this intersection and ways in which such challenges can be met by different actors, so as to improve the realization of human rights in a globalizing world. Rather than the human rights framework as a given, we explore the complex ways in which this framework interacts with the lived realities of supposed right-holders.

In this course, we deliberately orient ourselves at apparently marginal spaces: situations where the foundations and ramifications of legal norms are not so straightforward and raise fundamental questions about the conceptual underpinnings of human rights. We draw on literature in legal ethnography to grapple with the convoluted legal landscapes that we will encounter in these margins.

The course is organized in three thematic areas: human rights and the market (including the application of business and human rights standards); human rights and mobility

(including the many formal and informal actors that shape the contested arena of transnational migration) and human rights and insurgency (including the complications that arise when the primary duty-bearer, the state, is challenged or incapacitated). Throughout these three blocks, we will attend to dimensions of gender, race, and indigeneity.

Form of teaching

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

The course examinations are carried out through five assignments, as follows:

- Assignment 1 is a group exercise in the form of a literature review of pre-selected academic papers (2 credits)
- Assignment 2 is an individually written literature review of self-chosen academic papers (2 credits)
- Assignment 3 is a group peer review exercise of papers written in the course (1 credit)
- Assignment 4 is an individually written revised and expanded paper, based on feedback received by peers and on one's reflections and further research (literature review)(5 credits).
- Assignment 5 is a case study on a selected current issue (5 credits).

The examination assignments may include written and oral peer review feedback, and seminars for discussion and presentation. In the case of missed or failed seminar participation, supplementary assignment is provided.

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: Excellent (A), Very good (B), Good (C), Satisfactory (D), Sufficient (E) and Fail (F).

In order to obtain a passed grade on the whole course, students need to receive at least the grade E on all of the required 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 evaluations in different forms are taken into consideration when developing the course. The results and possible changes to the course will be shared with the students who participated in the evaluation and the next class to take the course.

Additional information

Study trips and other similar events can be organised that may include costs for the students, e.g., travels, lodging, etc. When this is the case, participation is voluntary.