



## Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Political Science

1SK179 Hållbar utveckling och internationell rätt, 60 högskolepoäng  
1SK179 Sustainable Development and International Law, 60 credits

### **Main field of study**

Political Science

### **Subject Group**

Political Science

### **Level of classification**

First Level

### **Progression**

G1N

### **Date of Ratification**

Approved 2015-01-21

Revised 2017-06-13 by Faculty of Social Sciences.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2017

### **Prerequisites**

General entry requirements for university studies.

## Objectives

After completing the course the students are expected to be able to:

- account for the basics of the system of international law that regulates interaction between states as well as between states and individuals.
- describe the sources and nature of international legal rules and independently and critically reflect upon and analyze problem areas within international law and sustainable development.
- describe the developing systems, laws and norms for the protection of human rights in the world today.
- analyze critically, scientifically and independently the discriminatory and abusive social, political, religious and cultural values and attitudes and to reformulate, interpret and translate them in accordance with the spirit and legal meaning of international law and human rights law.
- independently apply knowledge on theories and methods through the identification and treatment of a problem in a scientific paper.

The course consists of seven modules. Modules 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7 are obligatory. Module

4 and 5 are optional – the student have to choose one of them.

### **Module 1 Introduction to International Law 7.5 credits**

After completing the course the students are expected to:

- Be able to understand the basic knowledge of the principles, norms, institutions and decision making procedures of international law
- Be able to understand the relation between International law and national law
- Have the ability to understand and to analyze the basic principles and rules of international law and the ability to apply them professionally in the real situations and circumstances

### **Module 2 International Human Rights Law 7.5 credits**

After completing the course the students are expected to:

- Be able to understand foundations of legal aspects of human rights.
- Be able to encompass the knowledge of the present and developing systems, laws and norms for the protection of human rights in the world today, at international, regional and national levels.
- Be able to understand the relationship between international human rights and national legal system.
- Having the ability to analyze critically, scientifically and independently, the discriminatory and abusive social, political, religious and cultural values and attitudes and to reformulate, interpret and translate them in accordance with the spirit and legal meaning of international law and human rights law.

### **Module 3 Human Rights in Historical and Philosophical Perspective 7.5 credits**

After completing the course the students are expected to:

- Acquire a general understanding about the making and development of the idea
- (s) and practice of rights and duties in different times and spaces and the dialectics of different forces in society working for and against it.
- Be able to put the ideas and practices of human rights in a global and local settings, and to discuss critically the historical and philosophical controversies surrounding the issue of human rights/duties.
- Be able to recognize how rights and duties issues have interacted with politics of power and the powerlessness, economy and culture in a historical and philosophical perspective.
- Be able to gear human rights issues towards questions of new issues relating to human rights i.e. women, gender, minorities, indigenous and tribal people, homosexuals etc. and how the advent of a culture of human rights is possible.
- Acquire a basic knowledge of history and philosophy and prepare themselves to study further Human Rights Law.

### **Module 4 Terrorism A multidisciplinary approach 7.5 credits**

After completing the course the students are expected to:

- Be able to define, discuss the phenomena of terrorism in broader and multidisciplinary prospective .
- Be able to understand the basis, character and the modern term of terrorism
- Be able to analyze critically different aspects of terrorism in different perspectives – peace, human rights and genus

### **Module 5 Introduction to international Economic, trade and finance law 7.5 credits**

After completing the course the students are expected to:

- Be able to understand basic legal principles and rules concerning international trade , economic and finance law
- Be able to understand the international organizational structures in this area on international, regional and national level
- Be able to understand that how the development of international legal rules have effected the process of globalization.
- Be able to having the ability to discuss the conflict resolution institutions , i.e. international arbitration court and World trade organization
- Be able to apply the legal norm in public and private sector

### **Module 6 Sustainable Development Law**

After completing the course students are expected to:

- Be able to understand these three dimensions which have developed an integrated, overlapping and balanced structure of legal norms and principles at national, regional and international levels and endorsed a new branch of law – the law of sustainable development
- Be able to explore the existing and emerging legal principles and norms concerning sustainable development at international, regional, national and local levels
- Be able to understand the concept of sustainable development is by emphasizing basically four main areas (economics, environment, human rights and gender) and relating them to relevant basic legal rules
- Having the ability to understand the basic legal principles of trade and commercial, environmental and human rights laws and further to apply and to advance these legal norms and principles and practices of sustainable development in the private and public sectors.

### **Module 7 Thesis International law and Sustainable Development**

After completing the course the student are expected to:

- Be able to apply the multidisciplinary knowledge which student have gained at the basic level
- Be able to define a problem and to carried the studies
- Be able to write scientific thesis which shall follow the academic methodology
- Be able to present the examination - thesis
- Be able to critically scrutinize other students papers and oppose it
- Be able to critically and independently analyze the problem formulations, formulate policies and strategies and apply these strategies in public and private sectors.

## **Content**

This course is multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary. The main theme of the course is international law and sustainable Development. The Concept of sustainable development is basically discussed in three dimensions: human Rights (social aspect), economy and environment.

The course consists of seven modules distributed over two terms (spring and autumn). Term autumn consists of four modules and the spring term of two modules.

### **Module 1 Introduction to International Law 7.5 credits**

The following themes and topics of international law will be explored:

- Historical development of international law and its relevance in present international World order both from a traditional and a gender perspective
- Theories and subjects of international law
- Sources of international law
- States, international organizations and individuals in international law
- Moreover other topics which are substantive areas of international law, i.e. the law of peace and war, international environmental and human rights law shall be discussed too
- Issues in human right from a perspective of equality between the sexes

### **Module 2 International Human Rights Law 7.5 credits**

- The course will cover the sources and nature of international legal rules about human
- rights, the associated legal processes and the relationship of these international rules to individuals, organizations and states. Ideological and cultural perspectives will be discussed, as well as sources of violation, the United Nations, regional and national systems, women's rights, children rights, minority rights and the role of nongovernmental organizations.
- The course will analyze and criticize issues in human rights from a perspective of equality between the sexes.

### **Module 3 Human Rights in Historical and Philosophical Perspective 7.5 credits**

The course follows the historical and philosophical development of human rights in a general sense, but also looks at issues in modern history where the rights of ethnic, religious or other minorities have been at stake, as has gender and women's rights etc and highlights the emerging practice and intellectual debates that have accompanied the concept in modern history, the role of different actors, States, individuals and specially the role of Political and Social Movements with examples from various parts of the world, Asia, America, Africa and Europe.

The course follows the debate that has arisen, both with regard to those who claim a set of universal human rights, and those who claim it as culture specific, or even incompatible with particular ideological or religious creeds.

### **Module 4 Terrorism – a MultiDisciplinary Approach, 7,5 credits**

The course focuses on the definition of terrorism from an international law and human rights perspective. The foundations of terrorism will be described and analysed using various approaches and disciplinary perspectives. Other elements in the course are; peace, different kinds of international conflicts and how to manage crisis.

### **Module 5 Introduction to International Economic Law, Trade Law and Investment Law 7,5 Credits**

The course will cover the following aspects:

- International Economic Law
- International Trade Law
- International intellectual property Law
- International Competition Law
- International litigation Law
- International law concerning the protection of investment

**Module 6 Sustainable development law 15 credits** After completing the course the students are expected to:

- Be able to understand these three dimensions which have developed an integrated, overlapping and balanced structure of legal norms and principles at national, regional and international levels and endorsed a new branch of law – the law of sustainable development.
- Be able to explore the existing and emerging legal principles and norms concerning sustainable development at international, regional, national and local levels.
- Be able to understand the concept of sustainable development is by emphasizing basically four main areas (economics, environment, human rights and gender) and relating them to relevant basic legal rules.
- Having the ability to understand the basic legal principles of trade and commercial, environmental and human rights laws and further to apply and to advance these legal norms and principles and practices of sustainable development in the private and public sectors.

### **Module 7 Writing Thesis for Sustainable Development Law 15 credits**

After completing the course the students are expected to:

- Be able to apply knowledge that has been obtained during the course.
- Define a research question and conduct a study.
- Write a thesis and show methodological awareness.
- Orally present a thesis.
- Learning the role of opponent at the presentation of other project

### **Type of Instruction**

The teaching consists of lectures, exercises, caseworks, role play and seminars.

### **Examination**

The course is assessed with the grades A, B, C, D, E, Fx or F.

The grade A is the highest grade. The grade E is the lowest grade to pass the course. The grade F means that the student has failed the course. Fx is not a grade and is only used when a student is allowed to complement her/his examination.

Each module has individual examinations:

#### **Module 1:**

The students will be given both oral and written examinations and are required to complete all exercises successfully.

#### **Module 2:**

The students will be given both oral and written examinations and are required to complete all exercises successfully.

#### **Module 3:**

Assessment is conducted through a written seminar paper. An oral presentation of the seminar task and seminar participation is included in the examination.

#### **Module 4:**

Assessment is conducted through a written seminar paper. An oral presentation of the seminar task and seminar participation is included in the examination.

#### **Module 5:**

Assessment is conducted through a written seminar paper. An oral presentation of the seminar task and seminar participation is included in the examination.

#### Module 6:

A written seminar paper. An oral presentation of the seminar paper. Active participation is mandatory during each seminar.

#### Module 7:

Orally defend and present a thesis. Act as an opponent at the presentation of one other thesis.

Active participation is mandatory during each seminar.

### Course Evaluation

A written evaluation is conducted and compiled in a report, which is filed at the department. The result and actions, if taken, are communicated to the teacher responsible for the course and presented to the students in the way most appropriate according to the teacher responsible for the course.

### Credit Overlap

The course cannot be included in a degree along with the following course/courses of which the content fully, or partly, corresponds to the content of this course: 1SK178 - 30 HE credits

1SK152 - 7,5 HE credits

1SK153 - 7,5 HE credits

1SK154 - 7,5 HE credits

1SK183 - 7,5 HE credits

1SK182 - 7,5 HE credits

1SK157 - 15 HE credits

1SK158 - 15 HE credits

### Required Reading and Additional Study Material

#### **Module 1. Introduction to International Law**

Malanczuk, Peter, *Akehurst's Modern Introduction to International Law* (latest edition). London: Routledge (400 pages).

Study Material (legal texts, articles). Pages: 650.

#### **Module 2. International Human Rights Law**

Smith, Rhona K M (2005), *Textbook on International Human Rights Law*, Oxford Press, pages: 371.

Legal texts, articles, and cases. 650 pages.

#### **Module 3. Human Rights in Hist. and Phil. Perspective**

Dembour, Marie Bénédicte (2006): *Who believe in Human Rights? Reflections on European Convention of Human Rights*. Cambridge University Press, 340 pages. ISBN: 9780521683074

Hunt, Lynn, *Inventing Human Rights: A History*, New York & London: Norton & Co, latest edition. 260 pages.

Ishay, Micheline R, *History of Human Rights: From Ancient Times to the Globalization Era*, Berkeley: University of California Press, latest edition. 404 pages.

Compendium of texts and documents, 200 pages.

**Module 4. Terrorism - a Multidisciplinary Perspective**

Combs, Cindy C, *Terrorism in the Twenty First Century*, Boston: Pearson, latest edition. (287 pp.)

Juergensmeyer, Mark, *Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence*, Berkeley: University of California Press, latest edition. (300 pp.)

Ali, Tariq, *The Clash of Fundamentalism: Crusades, Jihads and Modernity*, London: Verso, latest edition. (305 pp.)

Study Material (Legal texts, Articles and cases, 200 pp).

**Module 5. Intr to Intern Eco. Law, Trade Law and Inv. Law**

Andreas F. Lowenfeld (2007), *International Economic Law*, Oxford university press. Pages: 904.

Study Material Articles, international conventions and cases. Pages: 300.

**Module 6. Sustainable Development Law**

Segger, MarieClaire Cordonier and Khalfan, Ashfaq (2005), *Sustainable Development Law: Principles, Practises and Prospects*, Oxford: Oxford University Press. (419 pp.)  
Article, international conventions, and cases (800 pp.)

**Module 7. Writing Thesis for Sustainable Development Law**

Coomans, Grünfeld, Kamminga (ed.) (2009), *Methods of Human Rights Research*, Maastricht Series in Human Rights. pages: 262 ff.

Dalal-Clayton, Bass (2002), *Sustainable Development Strategies: A resource book*, The International Institute for Environment and Development. Pages 325 ff.

Study material articles, 200 pages.