



## Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences  
Department of Political Science

1SK134 Folkrätt och mänskliga rättigheter, 7,5 högskolepoäng  
International law and human rights, 7.5 credits

### **Main field of study**

Political Science

### **Subject**

Political Science

### **Level**

First cycle

### **Progression**

G1N

### **Date of Ratification**

Approved 2018-12-12.

Revised 2026-01-20. The prerequisite requirement has been supplemented with subjects according to GY25.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2026.

### **Prerequisites**

General entry requirements + English 6 and Civics 1b alt. Civics 1a1 +1a2.

Or: English 2 and Civics level 1b alt. Civics level 1a1 +1a2.

### **Objectives**

On successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

- Identify the basic principles, norms, institutions and decision making procedures of international law.

- Describe how international law is implemented in the international system and discuss the extent of compliance at the state level.
- Explain the foundations of legal aspects of human rights.
- Identify present and developing systems, laws and norms for the protection and promotion of human rights.
- Analyse and compare the different economic, cultural and social rights at international and EU-level.

## Content

This course focuses on two broad themes. The first part concerns international law and how relations between states are regulated in international agreements and conventions. This also includes the role of international organisations, especially the United Nations. Questions that are addressed concern differences between international and national law, how international law is implemented, to what extent do states comply and what is the role of institutions in achieving legal compliance. The course further discusses the nature and sources of international law. The second part further deals with human rights and its legal dimension, and with economic, social, and cultural rights in international law. Here, and throughout the course, European law plays a prominent role (in a comparative perspective) not least due to the important role of the European convention on human rights in international law and the European Union due to its developed system of multilevel governance. Special emphasis is given to the protection and promotion of human rights in a global perspective and the comparison of different basic rights and principles in international and European law.

## Type of Instruction

Teaching consists of lectures, seminars and supervision.

## Examination

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

Grade A represents the highest grade on the scale, and the subsequent grades follow in descending order, where grade E is the lowest grade that qualifies as a Pass. A grade of F means that the student's performance is assessed as Fail. Fx is not a grade and is only used when a student is permitted to supplement his/her examination.

In order to receive a grade of Pass (E) in the course all the objectives need to be fulfilled. To be awarded a final grade of D-A in the course, it is required that the grading criteria are fulfilled based on a weighted assessment of the grades for all the examination assignments. Students who have not passed (i.e. received the grade of F) the scheduled examination, will be offered a new examination shortly after the scheduled examination date. Information about the grading scale A-F is given in a separate document, provided at the start of the course, at the latest.

Examination takes place by means of seminars and a written home exam.

## Course Evaluation

A course evaluation is carried out either during or at the end of the course. Results and analysis of the evaluation are presented to the students who have completed the course as well as to new students at the following course date. The course evaluation is

conducted anonymously.

## Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Dixon, Martin (Latest edition). *Textbook on International Law*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, (432 p.)

Berry, Elspeth; Homewood, Matthew J.; Bogusz, Barbara (latest edition). *Complete EU Law, Text, Cases, and Materials*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, (736 p.)

Smith, Rhona K.M. (Latest edition). *Textbook on International Human Rights*. Oxford University Press, (446 p.)

Additional journal articles and book chapters accessed via the learning platform or the University library, about 100 p.