



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Political Science

1SK156 Mänskliga rättigheter i Europa, 15 högskolepoäng

European Human Rights Law, 15 credits

Main field of study

Political Science

Subject Group

Political Science

Level of classification

First Level

Progression

G1N

Date of Ratification

Approved by Faculty of Social Sciences 2014-10-29

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2016

Prerequisites

General entry requirements.

Objectives

The general objective of this course is to enable students to develop the ability to understand the norms of European Human Rights Law and be able to apply these norms professionally in private and public life.

Other learning outcomes from this course are:

- Be able to understand the historical and philosophical development of human rights norms in Europe
- Having the ability to comprehend the importance of human rights
- Be able to develop and expand their theoretical knowledge of different European Human Rights Conventions
- Be able to become familiar with the practical implementation procedures and institutions (European Court of Human Rights) etc
- Having the ability to analyse 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 meanings of human rights legal norms.

Content

The main theme of this course concerns learning basic legal norms of European Human Rights Law (including European Union and other European IGOs and NGOs). The following topics will be explored:

- Basic aspects of International Law related to human rights norms
- Historical and philosophical aspects and development of human rights in Europe
- Analyse and criticize issues in human right from a perspective of equality between the sexes
- Organisation of the Court of European Human Rights, jurisdiction, proceeding of the Court and the effects of a judgement of the Court
- Established mechanisms and procedures to protect social, economical and cultural rights in Europe
- Concepts of human dignity and nondiscrimination, right to life, prohibition of slavery and forced labour, protection of property, prohibition of torture and degrading treatment, right to liberty and security, right to a fair trial, right to respect for private and family life, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, freedom of assembly, freedom of expression and right to a effective remedy
- Welfare rights, consumer rights, women rights, children rights, discrimination against women and racial discrimination
- Intellectual property rights
- Right to peace, environmental rights, right to sustainable development and social justice
- The difference between human right from a traditional perspective and from a perspective between the sexes

The main theme and topics mentioned above shall be taught in three stages:

1. International law, development and philosophical aspects of human rights in Europe. In this first stage students shall learn the basic principles of international law related to human rights. Different philosophical aspects and ideologies related to human rights and the concepts of universality and cultural relativism.

2. European regional organisations and legal norms of human rights in Europe: Institutional structure of the Council of Europe, the European Court of Human Rights, the European Union, OSCE and NGOs in Europe.

- Civil and political rights: The European Convention for the protection Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and other conventions
- Economical, social and cultural rights: The European Social Charter and other conventions in this field
- Minority rights: The Framework convention for the Protection of National Minorities
- Case studies: The European court of Human Rights has created massive jurisprudence through judgements.

3. Implementation of human rights at National level: How has Sweden implemented European norms of human rights in their laws and policy documents? Students (Swedish and from other countries) shall learn, independently and together, to understand the difference and similarities between human rights implementation procedures and strategies in different countries.

Type of Instruction

Lectures, seminars, discussions and simulations and roleplay (Moot court). Lectures are compulsory.

Examination

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

The course examinations are 1. Written seminar paper. 2. Oral presentation of the written seminar paper. 3. Written final exam.

The grade A constitutes the highest grade on the scale and the remaining grades follow in descending order where the grade E is the lowest grade on the scale that will result in a pass. The grade F means that the student's performance is assessed as fail. (i.e. received the grade F) Fx is not a grade and is only used when a student is allowed to complement her/his examination.

Students who have not passed (i.e. received the grade of F) at the regular examination will be offered a new examination shortly after the regular examination.

Course Evaluation

A written course evaluation is performed and compiled into a report to be kept in the university school archives. The result and any measures taken are communicated to the course coordinator and presented to the students participating the next time the course is offered.

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:1SK174

Other

Grade criteria for the A–F scale are communicated to the student through a special document. The student is to be informed about the grade criteria for the course by the start of the course at the latest.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Ovey, C., White, R. CA, *European Convention on Human Rights*, 2002 or latest edition, Oxford Unity Press, ISBN 019-8765800, 500 sidor