

STV4321B - Human rights, ideologies and political regimes

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Course content

The purpose of the seminar is to discuss the main features of the international system of human rights under the UN, in particular as this system has encountered new challenges in the wake of 9/11. The seminar deals with both the normative justifications of the human rights system and its institutions. You will learn to use comparative and historical analyses of the obstacles to its realization in the modern globalizing world, ranging from the threat from authoritarian regimes to structural injustices in the modern world. The course concludes by addressing how human rights prosecutions are changing world politics.

Learning outcomes

You will learn to use comparative and historical analyses of the obstacles to the realization of the human rights system in the modern globalizing world, ranging from the threat from authoritarian regimes to structural injustices in the modern world, and including domestic and international human rights prosecution.

STV4321B - Spring 2012 (Human rights, ideologies and political regimes)

Teaching – time and place (STV4321B – spring 2012)

[Add to calendar](#)

Lectures

Date	Day	Time	Activity	Location
23.04.12	Monday	12:15-14:00	Lecture	ES 847 Seminarrom
27.04.12	Friday	12:15-14:00	Lecture	ES 847 Seminarrom

30.04.1 2	Monday	12:15- 14:00	Lecture	ES 847 Seminarrom
04.05.1 2	Friday	12:15- 14:00	Lecture	ES 847 Seminarrom
07.05.1 2	Monday	12:15- 14:00	Lecture	ES 847 Seminarrom
11.05.1 2	Friday	12:15- 14:00	Lecture	ES 847 Seminarrom
14.05.1 2	Monday	12:15- 14:00	Lecture	ES 847 Seminarrom
18.05.1 2	Friday	12:15- 14:00	Lecture	ES 847 Seminarrom
21.05.1 2	Monday	12:15- 14:00	Lecture	ES 847 Seminarrom
25.05.1 2	Friday	12:15- 14:00	Lecture	ES 847 Seminarrom

Schedule generated 26.03.2012 23:14

Course Plan STV4321B Human Rights, Ideologies, and Political Regimes,
Spring 2012 (April and May):

Course Teachers: Bernt Hagtvet (STV) and Tore Lindholm (NCHR)

STV4321-1 The Rise of Global Standards of Human Rights: World War II, The Creation of the Charter of the United Nations, and the Making of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
 Glendon 2001, (Buergenthal), texts of "The International Bill" and the UN Charter

STV4321-2 What are Universal Human Rights? Are they Binding? In what Senses? And Why?
 Nickel 2007:53-105, (Buergenthal), handouts

STV4321-3 Human Rights in International Relations: Between International Politics and Law
 Forsythe 2006

STV4321-4 The Varieties of Human Rights and the Complexity of their Justifications
 Nickel 2007:106-184

STV4321-5 International Law, Claims of Universality, and Big Power Supremacy: Human Rights Between Hegemonic Ideology and Utopian Solidarity, Koskeniemi 2004, Forsythe 2002

STV4321-6 Human Rights in the Public Morality of World Politics: The Articulation of the Idea that each Person is a Subject of Global Concern Beitz 2009

STV4321-7 The power of Human Rights: Impacts on domestic politics. Risse and Sikkink 1999

STV4321-8 The Justice Cascades: How human rights prosecutions are changing world politics Sikkink 2011

STV4321-9 The Justice Cascades: How human rights prosecutions are changing world politics (II)

STV4321-10 Summing up
STV4321-10

Pensum/læringskrav (STV4321B - Vår 2010)

Background materials that are to be browsed in advance of the first lecture 23. April:

- “The International Bill of Human Rights”, comprising Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (1966/1976), and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966/1976). These documents are available from University of Minnesota Human Rights Library at [Link](#)
- Participants should have access to: The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (1993) Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at <http://www.ohchr.org/english/law/vienna.htm>, and Charter of the United Nations (1945) from University of Minnesota Human Rights Library at [Link](#)

- Handouts and other supplementary readings will be made available as the course proceeds. Also, a detailed teaching plan will be presented Monday 23 April. Additional handouts and supplementary readings will be posted in frontier.
- At the first course lecture Monday 23 April handouts will be available of relevant background information, in particular: excerpts from “Setting International Standards in the Field of Human Rights” (GAR 41/120, 4. Dec. 1986), “Statute of the International Court of Justice” (1945) and “Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties” (1969).
- Beyond the above-mentioned documents course participants who do not have any background in International Human Rights should consult Thomas Buergenthal et al., *International Human Rights in a Nutshell*, 4th Ed., St Paul, MN: West Publishing Company, 2009; ISBN978-0-314-18480-1 (Recommendation: start by reading chapters 1 through 3 and do not get bogged down by the many references to other literature or to case materials.)
- A **Course Compendium** will be available in the “Akademika” Bookstore with reproductions of the texts marked “in Comp” below.

Required reading:

Charles E. Beitz, *The Idea of Human Rights*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009; 212 pages

David P. Forsythe, “The United States and International Criminal Justice”, *Human Rights Quarterly*, 24, 2002:974-991; 17 pages [Link](#)

David P. Forsythe: *Human Rights in International Relations*, 2nd Edition, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006:57-88, 121-217; 68 pages

Mary Ann Glendon: *A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, New York: Random House, 2001:99-241; 138 pages

Martti Koskeniemi, “International Law and Hegemony: A Reconfiguration”, *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* 17, 2004, 197- 218, 20 pages [Link](#)

James W. Nickel, *Making Sense of Human Rights*, Second Edition, Malden MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2007:53-184; 131 pages

Thomas Risse and Katryn Sikkink, "The socialization of international human rights into domestic practices: introduction", in Risse, Ropp, Sikkink, eds, *The Power of Human Rights: International Norms and Domestic Change*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1999:1-38

Kathryn Sikkink, *The Justice Cascade: How Human Rights Prosecutions are Changing World Politics*, New York: Norton and Company, 2011

Total: 801 pages.