

COURSE
HUMR 5130
INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICS OF
HUMAN RIGHTS:
Autumn 2010
SYLLABUS

LECTURE 1**Introduction; The History of Human Rights**

Thursday, 26 August
1215-1400

Structure of the course; seminars & exams

Room 365 Domus Nova

The History of Human Rights

Instructors: Ingvill Plesner
(course leader) and Stener
Ekern (programme director)

Charles Beitz, *The Idea of Human Rights*, Oxford 2009
 (Ch 5: "A Fresh Start").

James Nickel, *Making Sense of Human Rights*, Blackwell
 Publishers, 2007 (Ch 1 – 3).

LECTURE 2**Are Human Rights Universal? If So, In What Sense?**

Thursday, 2 September
1215-1400

Jack Donnelly, 'The relative universality of Human
 Rights', *Human Rights Quarterly* 29, 2007.

Room 365 DN

Jack Donnelly, 'Both universal and relative. A reply to
 Goodhart', *Human Rights Quarterly* 30, 2008.

Instructor: Ingvill Plesner

Michael Goodhart, 'Neither relative nor universal. A
 response to Donnelly', *Human Rights Quarterly* 30, 2008.

LECTURE 3**Studying Human Rights in Political Science**

Thursday, 9 September
1215-1400

Room 365, DN

Todd Landman, *Studying Human Rights*, Routledge 2006 (ch 1-
 5 & 8).

Instructor: Bård A Andreassen

Recommended reading:
 Bård A Andreassen, "Political Science, Human Rights and the
 right to Food Discourse" in Wenche Barth Eide & Uwe Kracht

(eds.), *Food and human Rights in Development. Evolving Issue and Emerging Applications*, Intersentia 2007.

Todd Landman, Ch 9: "Human Rights" in Todd Landmann, *Issues and methods in Comparative Politics. An Introduction*, Routledge 2003.

LECTURE 4

*Thursday 16 September
1215-1400*

Room 365, DN

Instructor: Bård A Andreassen

Political theories of Human Rights: Justifications and Applications

Charles Beitz, *The Idea of Human Rights*, Oxford 2009 (Ch 1 & 5).

Henry Shue, *Basic Rights. Subsistence, Affluence, and U.S. Foreign Policy*, Princeton 1996 (Ch 1-2).

LECTURE 5

*Thursday 23 September
1215-1400*

Room 770 DN

Instructor: Bård A Andreassen

Human Rights and International Politics

Thomas Risse, Stephen C. Ropp, and Kathryn Sikkink (eds), *The Power of Human Rights. International Norms and Domestic Change*, Cambridge, 1999 (Ch 1-2 & 8).

Recommended reading:

David P. Forsythe, *Human Rights in International Relations*, Cambridge, 2006.

Bård A Andreassen and Stephen Marks (eds.), *Development as a Human Right. Legal, Political and Economic Dimensions*, Intersentia, 2010.

LECTURE 6

*Thursday 30 September
1215-1400*

Room 365 DN

Instructor: Ingvill Plesner

Diverse Justifications of Human Rights

Tore Lindholm, 'Philosophical and Religious Justifications of Freedom of Religion or Belief' in Tore Lindholm, W. Cole Durham, Jr. & Bahia G. Tahzib-Lie (eds.) *Facilitating Freedom of Religion or Belief: A Deskbook*, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers 2004, pp 19-61.

LECTURE 7

Thursday 14 October

Anthropological Perspectives on Human Rights: Group Rights and Relativism

1215-1400	Cowan, Dembour and Wilson, "Introduction", in Cowan, Dembour and Wilson (eds.), <i>Culture and Rights. Anthropological perspectives</i> , Cambridge 2001 (Ch 1).
Room 365 DN	
Instructor: Stener Ekern	Thomas Hylland Eriksen, <i>Ethnicity and Nationalism</i> (2 nd edition), Pluto Press, 2002 (Ch 7).
	Recommended Reading: Pedro Pitarch, "The Labyrinth of Translation", in Pitarch, Speed and Leiva (eds.), <i>Human Rights in the Maya Region</i> , Duke Univ. Press, 2008 (Ch 4).

LECTURE 8

Thursday 21 October
1215-1400

Room 770 DN

Instructor: Ingvill Plesner

Interrrelations Between Various Human Rights

James Nickel, *Making Sense of Human Rights*, Blackwell Publishers, 2007 (Ch 4 – 7).

LECTURE 9

Thursday 28 October
1215-1400

Room 770 DN

Instructor: Ingvill Plesner

Conflicts Between Various Human Rights

Martha C. Nussbaum: "The Role of Religion" in *Women and Human Development: The Capabilities Approach*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000: 167-240

Brian Barry: "Liberal States and Illiberal Religions" in *Culture and Equality*, Cambridge, Mass, Harvard University Press, 2001: 155-193.

LECTURE 10

Thursday 4 November
1215-1400

Room 365, DN

Instructor: Stener Ekern

Indigenous Peoples and the Challenge of Accomodating Different Groups

Yash Ghai, *Autonomy and Ethnicity. Negotiating Competing Claims in Multiethnic States*, Cambridge 2000 (Ch1: 'Ethnicity and Autonomy').

Thomas Hylland Eriksen, *Ethnicity and Nationalism* (2nd edition), Pluto Press, 2002 (Ch 8).

S. James Anaya, *Indigenous Peoples in International Law* (2nd edition), Oxford Univ. Press 2004 (Intro & Ch 1).

Recommended Reading:
Jane Collier, “Analyzing Witchcraft Beliefs”, in Starr and Goodale (eds.), *Practicing Ethnography in Law. New Dialogues, Enduring methods*, Palgrave Macmillan 2002 (Ch 4).

LECTURE/SEMINAR 11

*Thursday 11 November
1215-1400*

Room 770 DN

*Instructor: (guest lecturer
from Helsinki Committee)*

Case Study 1: Promoting Human Rights: NGOs at Work

LECTURE/SEMINAR 12

*Thursday 18 November
1215-1400*

Room 770 DN

Instructor: Ingvill Plesner

Case Study 2: Human Rights Issues in Norway

Ingvill Plesner, “Freedom of religion or belief: A quest for state neutrality?” (PhD Dissertation), Unipub 2008 (Ch 3.2).
