

# **MIDTERM ASSIGNMENT, HUMR 5131, AUTUMN 2014**

Deadline: 7 October, 2014, at 1300 hrs.

## **ANSWER ONE OF THE QUESTIONS PRESENTED BELOW**

### **1) Human Rights and Philosophy**

Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights claims that

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood".

Which philosophical problems do you see involved here? How would you address them?

### **2) Human Rights History**

The various articles and book chapters on your reading list offer different approaches to the task of giving an account of the prominent role human rights play in the contemporary world. Select at least two contrasting methodologies and apply them to the case of your own country or another country you know well. What are the strong and weak points of the respective approaches?

### **3) Human Rights and Culture**

Do we find human rights in all cultures? It is said, for instance, that human rights are peculiarly 'western' or peculiarly 'modern'. In which ways can these latter claims be said to be true? Use empirical examples from the reading list or a country (or several countries) you know well.