

**COURSE**  
**HUMR 5191**  
**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND THESIS DEVELOPMENT**  
**Spring 2015**  
***SYLLABUS & Lecture Plan***

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**LECTURE 1*****Introduction to the Course****Tuesday, 27 January**1315-1500**Seminar Room, NCHR**Instructor: Bård A Andreassen*

- Presentation of the course.
- Social science: What is an ‘explanation’? Around what is a thesis in the social sciences constructed?
- Formal requirements

## Reading list:

- Dessler, David, “Beyond Correlations: Toward a Causal Theory of War”, *Int. Studies Quarterly* 35, 3 (1991) pp 119-154.
  - Trachtenberg, Mark, *The Craft of International History: A guide to method*, Princeton University Press, 2006, ch 1-5.
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**LECTURE 2*****Research Questions and Legal Problems****Friday, 30 January**1315-1500**Seminar Room, NCHR**Instructor: Bård A Andreassen  
and Gentian Zyberi*

- Law: What is a legal interpretation? Around what is a thesis in law constructed?

## Reading list:

- Smits, Jan M., “Redefining Normative Legal Science: Towards an Argumentative Discipline”, in Coomans, Fons, Fred Grünfeld and Menno T. Kamminga (eds.), *Methods of Human Rights Research*, pp 45-58, Intersentia 2009.
  - Brems, Eva, “Methods in legal human rights research”, in *Methods of Human Rights Research...*, pp 77-89.
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**LECTURE 3*****Research Questions and Legal Problems (continued)****Tuesday, 3 February**1315-1500**Seminar Room, NCHR**Instructors: Gentian Zyberi*

- Formulating a ‘research question’ (with a lawyer’s comments)
- Formulating a legal problem (case discussion with comments from a social scientist)

## Reading list:

- Richard Posner, ‘Legal Scholarship Today’, *Harvard Law Review* vol. 115 (2002), pp 1314-1326.
- - McConville, Mike and Wing Hong Chui, *Research Methods for Law*, Edinburgh Univ. Press, 2007, pp. 1-16.

-- Daniel Kanstroom, 'On 'Waterboarding': Legal Interpretation and the Continuing Struggle for Human Rights', *Boston College Third World Law Journal*, Vol. 28 (2008), pp 269-287.

-- Trachtenberg, Mark, *The Craft of International History: A guide to method*, Princeton University Press, 2006, chs 1-5.

-- Montgomery, Heather, "Imposing Rights? A case study of child prostitution in Thailand", in Cowan, Jane K., Marie-Bénédicte Dembour and Richard A. Wilson, 'Introduction' in Jane K. Cowan, Marie-Bénédicte Dembour and Richard A. Wilson, *Culture and Rights. Anthropological Perspectives*, Cambridge University Press, 2001, pp 80-102.

#### **LECTURE 4**

#### ***How to Read Statistics***

*Friday, 6 February*

- How to read statistics

*1315-1500*

*Seminar Room NCHR*

Reading list: Landman 2006

*Instructor: Marianne Dahl  
(PRIO)*

#### **LECTURE 5**

#### ***Legal Method in International Law and Legal Method in Scandinavian Law***

*Tuesday, 10 February*

Reading list:

*1315-1500*

-- Brownlie, Ian, *Principles of Public International Law*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, pp 3-29 and 630-38.

*Seminar Room, NCHR*

-- Ratner, S. and A-M Slaughter, "Appraising the Methods of International Law", *The American Journal of International Law*, Vol. 93, No. 2 (1999), pp. 291-302.

*Instructor: Gentian Zyberi*

#### **LECTURE 6**

#### ***Human Rights Methodology (Operationalisation and Measurement) and Comparative Research Design***

*Friday, 13 February*

Reading list:

*1315-1500*

-- Landman, Todd, *Studying Human Rights*, London and New York: Routledge, 2006.

*Seminar Room NCHR*

-- Jonsson, Urban, "A Human Rights-based Approach to Programming", in Gready, P. And J. Ensor (eds.)

*Instructor: Bård A Andreassen*

*Reinventing Development? Translating Rights-based Approaches from Theory into Practice*, London: Zed Books 2005, pp 47-62.

**LECTURE 7*****Exploring the Sources and Using them in Your Thesis***

*Tuesday, 24 February*

*1315-1500*

*Seminar Room NCHR*

*Instructor: Head Librarian  
Kirsten Fuglested*

**LECTURE 8*****One-day Workshop (6 hrs) in Academic Writing***

*Thursday, 26 February*

*0915-1500*

*Domus Bibliotheca: Møterom  
326 (seminar room third floor)*

*Instructor: Lynn P Nygaard,  
(PRIO)*

Reading list:

-- Lynn P Nygaard, *Writing for Scholars. A Practical Guide to Making Sense and being Heard*, Oslo: Universitetsforlaget 2008.

**LECTURE 9*****Sources: A Critical Review***

*Tuesday, 3 March*

*1315-1500*

*Seminar Room NCHR*

*Instructor: Bård A Andreassen*

- Data, interviews, statistics. Cases, secondary literature, documents, observations, fieldwork, archival material

Reading list:

-- Ekern, Stener, "The modernizing bias of human rights: stories of mass killings and genocide in Central America, in *Journal of Genocide Research*, 12:3-4 (2010), pp 219-241.

-- Kidder, Robert L., "Exploring Legal Culture in Law-Avoidance Societies", in June Starr and Mark Goodale, *Practicing Ethnography in Law*, Palgrave Macmillan 2002, pp 87-107.

**LECTURE 10*****Modes of Reasoning***

*Friday, 6 March*

*1315-1500*

*Seminar Room, NCHR*

*Instructor: Gentian Zyberi*

- Construction of arguments, constructions of evidence, making recommendations, policy-making

Reading list (Choose Two of the Four):

-- Philosophy: Waldron, Jeremy, "The Core of the case

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Against Judicial Review”, in *The Yale Law Journal*, Vol. 115 (2006), pp 1346-1406.

-- Law: Langford, Malcolm and Khulekani Moyo, “Right, Remedy or Rhetoric? Land Restitution in International Law”, *Nordic Journal of Human Rights*, Vol. 28, No. 2 (2010).

-- Social Science: Beth Simmons, *Mobilizing for Human Rights: International Law in Domestic Politics* (2009), pp. 349-380.

-- Practice: Human Rights Watch, *Rain of Fire. Israel’s Unlawful Use of White Phosphorus in Gaza*, 25 March 2009, pp 1-66.

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**LECTURE 11**

***Exam preparations***

*Tuesday, 10 March*

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*1315-1500*

*Seminar Room NCHR*

*Instructor: Bård A Andreassen*

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