

COURSE
HUMR 5191
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND THESIS DEVELOPMENT
Spring 2016
Lecture Plan

LECTURE 1*Exploring the Sources and Using them in Your Thesis**Thursday, 21 January,**1015-1200, Room K 39; Domus Bibliotheca**Instructor: Kirsten Fuglested***LECTURE 2***Introduction to the Course**Monday, 25 January**1015-1200**Seminar Room, NCHR**Instructor: Stener Ekern*

- Presentation of the course.

- Social science: What is an investigation? What is an ‘explanation’? Around what is a thesis in the social sciences constructed?

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.**LECTURE 3***Research Questions and Legal Problems**Friday, 29 January**1315-1500**Seminar Room, NCHR**Instructor: 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.

LECTURE 4***Research Questions and Legal Problems (continued)***

Monday, 1 February

1015-1200

Seminar Room, NCHR

Instructor: Gentian Zyberi
and Stener Ekern

- Formulating a 'research question' in the social sciences, with a lawyer's comments
- Formulating a legal problem (case discussion with comments from a social scientist)

Reading list:

- Posner, Richard, '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.
- Kanstrom, Daniel, '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*
- Montgomery, Heather, "Imposing Rights? A Study of Child Prostitution in Thailand", in Cowan et. al., *Culture and Rights. Anthropological Perspectives*, Cambridge University Press 2001, pp 80-102.

LECTURE 5***Comparative Human Rights Research***

Friday, 5 February

1315-1500

Seminar Room NCHR

Instructor: Bård A
Andreassen

Reading list:

- Landman, Todd, *Studying Human Rights*, London and New York: Routledge, 2006.
- Crawford, Gordon, Andreassen, Bård A., *Human Rights and Development: Putting Power and Politics at the Center* https://muse.jhu.edu/login?auth=0&type=summary&url=/journals/human_rights_quarterly/v037/37.3.crawford.pdf

LECTURE 6***Legal Method in International Law***

Monday, 8 February

1015-1200

Seminar Room, NCHR

Instructor: Gentian Zyberi

Reading list:

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

LECTURE 7**TBA**

Friday, 12 February
1330-1500

Seminar Room, NCHR

Instructor: TBA

LECTURE 8***How to Read Statistics***

Monday, 15 February
1015-1200

- How to read statistics

Seminar Room NCHR

Reading list: Landman 2006

Instructor: Kjersti Skarstad

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

Friday, 19 February

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

1315-1500

Seminar Room NCHR

Instructor: Stener Ekern

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

Monday, 29 February

0915-1500

Meeting room 325 and
326, third floor, Domus
Bibliotheca

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 11***Legal Reasoning and Different Types of Writing***

Friday, 4 March

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

1315-1500

Seminar Room, NCHR

Reading list:

Instructor: Gentian Zyberi

-- Law: Langford, Malcolm, 'Why Judicial Review?', Oslo Law review (2015), pp 36-85.

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

-- Practice: Report of the Independent Commission of Inquirey on the 2014 Gaza Conflict, A/HRC/29/52, 24 June, 2015.

LECTURE 12***Exam preparations***

Monday, 7 March

1015-1200

Seminar Room NCHR

Instructor: Stener Ekern
