

COURSE
HUMR 5191
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND THESIS DEVELOPMENT
Spring 2017
Lecture Plan
Mondays: 1015-1200; Fridays: 1315-1500

LECTURE 1***Introduction to the Course / Research Questions***

Monday, 23 January
1015-1200

Seminar Room, NCHR

Instructor: Stener Ekern

- Presentation of the course.
- Invitation to group work: Ideas for research from students
- Basic concepts: Method, theory. Research, inquiry, investigation, science. Explanation and understanding

Reading list:

- Dessler, David (1991), "Beyond Correlations: Toward a Causal Theory of War", *Int. Studies Quarterly* 35 (3), pp 119-154.
- Trachtenberg, Mark (2006), *The Craft of International History: A guide to method*, Princeton University Press, 2006, ch 1, pp 1-29.

LECTURE 2***Research Questions and Legal Problems***

Friday, 27 January
1315-1500

Seminar Room, NCHR

Instructor: Gentian Zyberi

- Designing a legal research question: choosing or combining different approaches and methods: positivism, comparativism, empiricism, qualitative and quantitative research.

Reading list:

- Brems, Eva, "Methods in legal human rights research", in Coomans, Fons, Fred Grünfeld and Menno T. Kamminga (eds.), *Methods of Human Rights Research* (Intersentia, 2009), pp 77-89.
- Rob van Gestel and Hans-Wolfgang Micklitz, "Why Methods Matter in European Legal Scholarship", 20(3) *European Law Journal* (2014), pp. 292-316.

LECTURE 3***Research Questions and Legal Problems (continued)***

Monday, 30 January
1015-1200
Seminar Room, NCHR

- 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)

Instructors: Gentian Zyberi
and Stener Ekern

Reading list:

- Dobinson, Ian and Francis Johns (2007), “Qualitative Legal Research” in McConville, Mike and Wing Hong Chui (eds.), *Research Methods for Law*, Edinburgh Univ. Press, pp 16-45.
- 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.
- Landman, Todd (2006), *Studying Human Rights*, Introduction, London and New York: Routledge, Ch 1 & 2, pp 1-35.
- 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 4

Exploring the Sources and Using them in Your Thesis

Friday, 3 February

1315-1500, Room K 39;
Domus Bibliotheca

Instructor: Kirsten
Fuglestved

LECTURE 5

***Research in Humanities and Social Sciences.
Anthropological Method***

Monday, 6 February
1015-1200

Seminar Room, NCHR

Instructor: Stener Ekern

- Landman, Todd (2006), Ch 3, 4, 5, pp 36-92.
- Kidder, Robert L. (2002), “Exploring legal Culture in Law-Avoidance Societies”, in Starr, June and Mark Goodale, *Practicing Ethnography in Law*, Palgrave Macmillan, pp 87-107.
- Ekern, Stener (2010), “The modernizing bias of human rights: stories of mass killings and genocide in Central America, in *Journal of Genocide Research*, 12:3-4, pp

219-242.

-- Preparation / assignment of group work

LECTURE 6**Comparative Method***Friday, 10 February
1315-1500**Seminar Room, NCHR**Instructor: Bård A Andreassen*

-- Andreassen, Bård Anders (2017), "Comparative analyses of human rights performance" in Bård A Andreassen, Hans-Otto Sano, and Siobhán McInerney-Lankford (eds.), *Research Methods in Human Rights: A Handbook*, London: Ed Elgar, Ch 1.

-- Agee, Jane (2009), "Developing qualitative research questions: a reflexive process", in *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*, 22:4, pp 431-447.

LECTURE 7***Case studies: Researcher's own Research****Monday, 13 January
1015-1200**Seminar Room, NCHR**Instructors: Stener Ekern and
Bård A Andreassen*

-- Ekern, Stener (2016), "Towards a Mayan Theory of Human Rights: Sacred Equilibria and the Consequences of Disrespect", *Nordic Journal of Human Rights*, 34 (4), pp 272-288.

-- Andreassen, Bård Anders and Gordon Crawford (eds.) (2013), *Human Rights, Power and Civic Action*, London: Routledge, Ch 1 (pp1-22) and Ch 8 (pp 218-256).

LECTURE 8***Legal Method in International Law****Friday, 17 February
1315-1500**Seminar Room, NCHR**Instructor: Gentian Zyberi*

-- Carlo Focarelli, *International Law as Social Construct: The Struggle for Global Justice* (Oxford University Press, 2012), pp. 89-140.

LECTURE 9***Modes of Reasoning****Monday, 27 February
1015-1200**Seminar Room**Instructor: Gentian Zyberi*

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

Reading list:

-- Law: Carlos Bernal, "Legal Argumentation and the Normativity of Legal Norms", in C. Dahlman and E. Feteris (eds.), *Legal Argumentation Theory: Cross-Disciplinary*

Perspectives (Springer, 2013) pp. 103-112.
-- Social Science: Beth Simmons, *Mobilizing for Human Rights: International Law in Domestic Politics* (2009), pp. 349-380.
-- Practice: Report of the Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza Conflict, A/HRC/29/52, 24 June, 2015.

LECTURE 10***One-day Workshop (6 hrs) in Academic Writing***

Friday, 3 March

0915-1500

Seminar Room, NCHR

*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***Exam preparations / group work presentations***

Monday, 6 March

1015-1200

Seminar Room NCHR

*Instructors: Stener Ekern,
Bård A Andreassen, Gentian
Zyberi*
