

**COURSE**  
**HUMR 5191**  
**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND THESIS DEVELOPMENT**  
**Spring 2018**

*Lecture Plan*

*Mondays 1015-1200 and Fridays 1315-1500*  
*Except Lectures 2 (Wednesday 1415-1600), 8 (Friday, 1015-1200)*  
*and 10 (Friday 02.03, all day seminar)*

**Seminar Room, CA 30**

**LECTURE 1**

***Introduction to the Course / Designing a Research Questions and Developing a Thesis***

*Monday 22.01*  
*1015-1200*  
*Seminar Room, NCHR*

*Instructor: Stener Ekern*

- Presentation of the course.
- Invitation to group work: Ideas for theses from students
- Social science: What is an investigation? What is an ‘explanation’? Around what is a thesis in the social sciences constructed?

Reading list:

-- Trachtenberg, Mark (2006), *The Craft of International History: A guide to method*, Princeton University Press, 2006, Ch 1, pp 1-29.

-- Dessler, David (1991), “Beyond Correlations: Toward a Causal Theory of War”, in *International Studies Quarterly*, 35 (3), pp 337-355. (rec.)

-- Preparation / assignment of group work

**LECTURE 2**

***Research Questions and Legal Problems***

*Tuesday 23.01*  
*1415-1600*  
*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:

-- Zyberi, Gentian (2015), “The Role and Contribution of International Courts in Furthering Peace as an Essential

Community Interest”, in Cecilia M. Bailliet and Kjetil Mujezinović Larsen (eds.), *Promoting Peace Through International Law*, Oxford Univ. Press, Ch 17, pp 344-367.

-- 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, pp 1-18.

-- 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.

-- Preparation / assignment of group work

### **LECTURE 3**

#### ***Research Questions and Legal Problems***

*Monday 29.01  
1015-1200*

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

*Seminar Room, NCHR*

Reading list:

*Instructors: Gentian Zyberi*

-- Brems, Eva (2009), “Methods in legal human rights research”, in *Methods of Human Rights Research...*, pp 77-89.

-- Scheinin, Martin (2017), “The art and science of interpretation in human rights law”, in Andreassen et al, *Research Methods in Human Rights: A Handbook*, London: Edward Elgar, Ch 2, pp. 17-37.

### **LECTURE 4**

#### ***Comparative Method***

*Monday, 05.02  
1015-1200*

-- 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: Edward Elgar, Ch 10, pp 222-253.

*Seminar Room, NCHR*

-- Langford, Malcolm (2017), “Interdisciplinarity and multimethod research”, in Andreassen et al, *Research Methods in Human Rights: A Handbook*, London: Edward

*Instructor: Bård A  
Andreassen*

Elgar, Ch 8, pp 161-191.

**LECTURE 5**

**Exploring the Sources and Using Them in Your Thesis**

Monday, 05.02  
1315-1500  
Room K 39; Domus  
Bibliotheca

Instructor: Hilde Westbye

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**LECTURE 6**

***Legal Method in International Law***

Friday 09.02  
1315-1500  
Seminar Room, NCHR

Instructor: Gentian Zyberi

-- Theory: Focarelli, Carlo (2012), *International Law as Social Construct: The Struggle for Global Justice*, Oxford Univ. Press, pp 89-140.  
-- Practice: Report of the Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza Conflict, A/HRC/29/52, 24 June, 2015.

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**LECTURE 7**

***Case studies: Researcher's own Research***

Monday 12.02  
1015-1200  
Seminar Room, NCHR

Instructor: Stener Ekern

-- 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 (2015), "Human Rights and Development: Putting Power and Politics at the Center", *Human Rights Quarterly*, Volume 33 (3), pp 662-691.

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**LECTURE 8**

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

Friday, 16.02  
1015-1200

Seminar Room, NCHR

-- Landman, Todd (2006), Ch 3, pp 36-57.  
-- Engle Merry, Sally (2017), The potential of ethnographic methods for human rights research, in Andreassen et al, *Research Methods in Human Rights: A*

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*Instructor: Stener Ekern*      *Handbook*, London: Ed Elgar, Ch 7, pp 141-160.  
 -- 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.

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**LECTURE 9**

***Research Ethics and Methods of Ethics***

*Monday, 26.02*  
*1015-1200*  
*Seminar Room*

- Daniels, Norman. "Wide Reflective Equilibrium and Theory Acceptance in Ethics." *The Journal of Philosophy*, vol. 76, no. 5, 1979, pp. 256–282.

*Instructor: Jakob Elster*

-- Georg Ulrich, "Research Ethics for human rights research in Andreassen et al, *Research Methods in Human Rights: A Handbook*, London: Edward Elgar, Ch 9, pp 192-222.

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**LECTURE 10**

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

*Friday, 02.03*  
*1015-1600*  
*Seminar Room, NCHR*

Reading list:  
 -- Lynn P Nygaard, *Writing for Scholars. A Practical Guide to Making Sense and Being Heard*, Oslo: Universitetsforlaget 2015, 190 pp.

*Instructor: Lynn P Nygaard*  
*(PRIO)*

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**LECTURE 11**

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

*Monday, 05.03*  
*1015-1200*  
*Seminar Room NCHR*

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

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