

HUMR 5702 Human Rights and Sustainable Development: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Theory and Practices.

Exam paper, March 27- April 10th, 2020.

Answer ONE of the following questions, illustrate by providing examples. For your chosen response: please also provide an abstract of no more than 250 words (not included in word count for the essay).

1. Some observers suggest that ‘Human Rights Based Approaches to Development (RBA) seem to be grounded in assumptions of change that remain implicit and therefore often undebated.’ First, identify what some of these assumptions may be. Second, apply them to at least one specific example of RBA initiatives: either where it did appear to be effective, or, alternatively, it did not have the desired outcomes.
2. Do you think that limiting personal liberty is a necessary sacrifice to make in order to safeguard public health during an infectious epidemic? Discuss in relation to some of the restrictive measures imposed during the COVID-19 outbreak (e.g. upon movement, gatherings, quarantine, ‘lock-downs’) AND using two specific country responses to COVID-19 to illustrate.
3. Human rights provide focus upon formal discrimination but are more limited in providing leverage for a fairer distribution of material resources. They may even widen such inequalities. Critically assess both these comments and the potential for international human rights law to engage with inequality, selecting one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals to illustrate.

Total length of the essay: 4500 words maximum – word limit exceeding this amount will not proceed to marking.

Please be sure that you refer to literature in the Syllabus. Also, be careful about the structure of the paper, and answer all parts of the question. Referencing should follow one of the styles referred to on this webpage:

<http://www.ub.uio.no/english/writing-publishing/referencing/index.html>

Note that Harvard is commonly used in humanities and social sciences, and allows for in-text referencing (example: (Alston, 2005: 55), and a bibliography); Chicago 16th A is also often applied, but only applies in-notes (endnotes or footnotes) references and a bibliography.