



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
Gender Studies

# Syllabus

## Human rights

<b>Course Code:</b>	GVGJ24
<b>Course Title:</b>	Human rights <i>Mänskliga rättigheter</i>
<b>Credits:</b>	7.5
<b>Degree Level:</b>	Undergraduate level
<b>Progressive Specialisation:</b>	First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (G1F)

**Major Field of Study:**  
GEU (Gender Studies)

### Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2026-01-07, and is valid from the Spring semester 2027 at Karlstad University.

### Prerequisites

GVGJ11 Introduction to global gender studies, 7.5 ECTS credits, and GVGJ21 Feminist Jurisprudence, 7.5 ECTS credits, or equivalent.

### Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. describe and explain the meaning of gender, human rights, and social justice from global perspectives and in relation to institutions, actors, and processes within different political systems,
2. give an account of supranational systems and the significance of these systems for human rights,
3. identify and apply key international conventions, instruments, and related mechanisms for the protection of human rights, and
4. identify, formulate, and solve rights-related problems using a range of scientific methods.

**Content**

The course addresses the complex challenges that human rights face in a global context, with a particular emphasis on issues of gender, sexuality, and social justice. Students gain an in-depth understanding of the development of international conventions and legal instruments for the protection of human rights, as well as the institutions responsible for their implementation and monitoring. The course further includes analysis of how these norms and frameworks are interpreted, applied, and contested in different cultural, political, and economic contexts. Through comparative case studies from various parts of the world, the course highlights themes such as gender-based violence, reproductive rights, and the rights to assembly, association, and freedom of expression. Special attention is given to the power structures that shape what rights are recognised, what actors are included or excluded, and how rights are defended or restricted. The course also problematises the interaction between local grassroots movements, transnational networks, and international organisations, examining their role in both reinforcing and challenging existing human rights discourses.

**Reading List**

See separate document.

**Examination**

Learning outcomes 1, 2, and 3 are assessed based on a written exam.

Learning outcome 4 is assessed based on an individual written hand-in assignment presented and discussed in a seminar.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to Targeted Study Support due to a documented disability, the examiner has the right to give such students an adapted examination or to examine them in a different manner.

**Grades**

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course.

**Quality Assurance**

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

**Course Certificate**

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

**Additional information**

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor and Master levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.