



Faculty of Arts and Social Science
Cultural Studies

Syllabus

Human Rights in Intellectual and Cultural Traditions

Course Code:	KVGAM1
Course Title:	Human Rights in Intellectual and Cultural Traditions <i>De mänskliga rättigheternas idé- och kulturtraditioner</i>
Credits:	7.5
Degree Level:	Undergraduate level
Progressive Specialisation:	First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements (G1N)

Major Field of Study:
KSU (Cultural Studies)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Science 2016-04-29, and is valid from the Spring semester 2017 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

General admission requirements

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to

- demonstrate knowledge of the intellectual, ethical, philosophical and social foundations of human rights,
- give an account of the main features of the historical emergence of human rights,
- analyse the theoretical and political dimensions of human rights in a global context, and
- analyse and critically assess how human rights have been challenged and are still challenged from political, religious, philosophical, feminist and postcolonial perspectives.

Content

The historical and philosophical development of human rights from Antiquity, through the French revolution, to the UN declaration in 1945 is treated, along with the problems, critique, conflicts and challenges associated with ideas of human rights in a contemporary perspective. The course is based on Western cultural traditions but also has a postcolonial component with a focus on the cultural clashes of North and South, East and West. A theme is the tension between human rights and natural rights and between human rights and international rights, as well as between different types of rights such as human and citizen rights, political and social rights and individual and collective rights. Also the relationship between the person protected by rights and the unprotected person and the state's sovereignty vis-a-vis individual need of integrity are treated.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on individual take-home exam and written individual hand-in assignments, presented and discussed in seminars.

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.