

# HUMR 4510 Human rights, Politics, and Legitimacy

Spring 2017

## *Course outline*

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**Time:** Wednesday 12.15-14.00, except lecture 6 (which is Friday 10.15-12.00). First lecture: Wednesday 25 January; last lecture: Wednesday 5 April

**Place:** Seminarrom 251 Asbjørn Eide, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (Cort Adelers gt. 30)

**Coordinator:** Jakob Elster, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights

**Lecturers:** Jakob Elster, Tore Lindholm, Bernt Hagtvet, Bård Anders Andreassen, Lena Larsen

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### **LECTURE 1**                      **Presentation of the course; introducing the task of justification of human rights**

*Wednesday, 25 January  
12.15-14.00*

*Preparatory reading:*

*Instructor: Jakob Elster*

Griffin 2001, "First Steps in an Account of Human Rights"; Raz 2010; Beitz 2009, ch. 5+6

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### **LECTURE 2**                      **The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "A common standard of achievement . . ."**

*Wednesday, 1 February  
12.15-14.00*

*Preparatory reading:*

*Instructor: Bernt Hagtvet*

Glendon 2001:53-78, 251-255 (endnotes); 143-172, 260-263 (endnotes); Alfredsson, Eide eds, 1999: 3-24 (recommended)

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**LECTURE 3****Human rights promotion across borders: from commitment to compliance?**

*Wednesday, 8 February*  
*12.15-14.00*

*Preparatory reading:*

*Instructor:*  
*Bård Anders Andreassen*

Risse, Ropp, Sikkink eds. 2013:1-59 and 275-295; Crawford and Andreassen, 2013.

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**LECTURE 4****Human dignity and plural justification of human rights**

*Wednesday, 15 February*  
*12.15-14.00*

*Preparatory reading:*

*Instructor: Tore Lindholm*

Taylor 2011: 105-123; Waldron 2009; Lindholm 2008

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**LECTURE 5****Individual rights and the making of the international system**

*Wednesday, 1 March*  
*12.15-14.00*

*Preparatory reading:*

*Instructor: Tore Lindholm*

Reus-Smit 2013: 35-67, 151-192

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**LECTURE 6****Islamic sharia: an impediment to human right?**

*Wednesday, 8 March*  
*12.15-14.00*

*Preparatory reading:*

*Instructor: Lena Larsen*

Vogt, Larsen, Moe, eds. 2009: 47-73; Mir-Hosseini, Vogt, Larsen, Moe eds. 2013: 127-152; 213-234

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## **LECTURE 7**

### **Justifying international legal human rights**

*Friday, 10 March*

*13.15-15.00*

*Preparatory reading:*

*Instructor: Jakob Elster*

Buchanan 2013, ch. 2+3; Buchanan 2015; Luban 2015

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## **LECTURE 8**

### **International law, human rights and US Exceptionalism**

*Wednesday, 15 March*

*12.15-14.00*

*Preparatory reading:*

*Instructor: Bernt Hagtvet*

Forsythe 2002; Koskenniemi 2004

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## **LECTURE 9**

### **Decolonization and international human rights**

*Wednesday, 22 March*

*12.15-14.00*

*Preparatory reading:*

*Instructor: Tore Lindholm*

Burke 2006; Waltz 2001; Waltz 2004; Burke 2010 :13-58, 153-165 (endnotes); 112-144, 189-198 (endnotes) (recommended);

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## **LECTURE 10**

### **“The Justice Cascade”: How human rights prosecutions are changing world politics**

*Wednesday, 29 March*

*12.15-14.00*

*Preparatory reading:*

*Instructors: Tore Lindholm  
and Bernt Hagtvet*

Sikkink 2011: 31-85; 283-289 (endnotes ); Sikkink 2011: 129-222; 292-303 (endnotes) (recommended)

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## **LECTURE 11**

### **Summary: Reviewing the relation between justifying human rights, conceptualizing human rights and empirical studies of human rights**

*Wednesday, 5 April*

*12.15-14.00*

*Instructor: Jakob Elster*

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