General Information

RSOS4952 - Law, Ideology and Human Rights Violations

Final home exam, spring 2025

Language: You may write your answer in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish or English.

Size: Maximum 4000 words.
Front page, table of contents, (optional) and bibliography are not part of the word limit. If footnotes are used, these are included in the word limit.

Papers that exceed the 4000 word limit will be rejected, and not graded.

To open the attachments in the exam assignment, press ctrl + left mouse button, or right click and choose open in new tab/window.

Cheating: Any exam at the University of Oslo is being checked for both correct word count and incidents of cheating. Text recognition software will be used to find cases of plagiarism. Failure to cite sources or highlight quotes in any assignments that are handed in is considered cheating. You must cite the source if you obtain data, reasoning and arguments from the literature, syllabus and web pages. Short or long pieces of text quoted verbatim from other sources must be italicised so that it is obvious that it is a quote.

Submit your exam: Your exam answer shall be handed in electronically in Inspera. Exams at the University of Oslo are anonymous. Write only your candidate number found in StudentWeb.

Allowed file types: PDF

Contact info during your home exam:
In case of any issues during the exam, please contact: Info@jus.uio.no
In the subject field of your e-mail write: URGENT – EXAM – RSOS4952

Note that all other inquiries should be directed to info@jus.uio.no. Please do not contact the course teacher during the exam, as such inquiries will not receive a response.

Best of luck on your exam!

1 Exam assignment

RSOS4952 - Law, Ideology and Human Rights Violations

Read these two articles by Anne Applebaum and Hans Petter Graver:
There's a Term for What Trump and Musk Are Doing
The Legal Battle Over Liberal Democracy

Pick at least three of the theories on law, ideology and/or the rule of law presented in the course reading list and discuss them in relation to the two articles.

- To what degree can the theories you choose help explain the attacks on the rule of law described in the two articles?
- Why and in what ways are these theories relevant, and in what ways do they oppose or support each other?

You do not have to cover the two articles by Applebaum and Graver in their entirety, but can choose to focus on specific problems and issues highlighted in the articles. Use further contributions from the reading list to deepen the analysis.

In other words, the two articles provide you with a case - attacks on the rule of law in the USA - and your reading list provide you with theories and literature that you use to analyse that case.

Tip #1: The course literature present and discuss many different theories on the role and use of law in more or less authoritarian settings. Some of the texts on the reading list discuss several theories and some advance one specific theory. You are free to choose from these.

Tip #2: Use the reading list broadly. You do not need to incorporate every item on the reading list in your analysis, but try to demonstrate a broad knowledge of the reading list texts as well as the ability to discuss them critically against each other.

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