Course outline and assigned reading for each session

1. Introduction to legal theory and methods
Monday 28 February 14:15 -16:00
Professor Anne Hellum
NB: This is an optional lecture, aimed at students whose academic background is from other fields than legal studies, for example students from the Bachelor Program “Tverrfaglige kjønnsstudier”.

2. Course introduction: women’s human rights as international law
Thursday 3 March 14:15 -16:00
Professor Anne Hellum
Main literature:


3. Introduction to CEDAW and related conventions: The non-discrimination principle

Monday 7 March 14:15 -16:00
Professor Anne Hellum

Main literature:

Interpretations, as adopted by treaty-bodies:
- CCPR General Comment no. 28 (2000): Equality of rights between men and women (Article 3)
- CERD General Recommendation no. XXV (2000): Gender related dimensions of racial discrimination
- CESCR General Comment no. 16 (2005): The equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic social and cultural rights (art. 3 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)
- CESCR General Comment no. 20 (2009): Non-discrimination in economic, social and cultural rights (art. 2, para. 2)
- CEDAW, General Recommendation no 25 Temporary Special Measures
- CD:\EDAW General Recommendation no. 28 on the 'Core Obligations of States Parties under Article 2.'

4. The right to work: Protection against discrimination in the work place

Thursday 10 March 14:15 -16:00
Professor Anne Hellum

Main literature:

EU directives:
- EU Directive 2000/43/EC. Equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin
- EU Directive 2000/78/EC. Equal treatment in employment and occupation
- EU Directive 2006/54/EC. Equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation
- CEDAW, General Recommendation no 25 Temporary Special Measures

Case law:
- The Bilka case, C-170/84
- The Dekker case, C-177/88
- The Marshall case, C-409/95
- The Tele-Denmark case, C-109/00
- The University of Oslo case, E-1/02

5. SEMINAR 1: State reporting and women’s human rights
Monday 14 March 14:15 -16:00
Professor Anne Hellum

6. The right to health of women and girl-children: Reproductive health - non-discrimination and self determination
Thursday 17 March 12:15 -14:00
Professor Anne Hellum

Main literature:

Case law:
- “Open Door and Dublin Well Woman v. Ireland”. Judgment by the European Court of Human Rights (1992)

Interpretations, as adopted by treaty bodies:
- CESCRI General Comment no. 14 (2000): The right to the highest attainable standard of health (Art. 12)
- CRC General Comment no. 3 (2003): HIV/Aids and the rights of the child

7. Equality and religion

Monday 21 March 14:15 -16:00
Professor II Shaheen Sardar Ali

Main literature:

8. Women’s human rights and Islam

Thursday 24 March 01.15 – 16:00
Professor II Shaheen Sardar Ali

Main literature:
- Ali, Shaheen Sardar (2007): Overlapping Discursive Terrains of Culture, Law and Women’s Rights: An Exploratory Study on Legal Pluralism at Play in Pakistan. Warwick School of Law Research Paper. This article is not included in the course compendia. However, it is available on-line on the course home page, as well as at SSRN: http://ssrn.com/abstract=1496330.

Case law:

9. The right to access to resources: Land, water and food

Monday 28 March 16:15 – 16.00
Research fellow Ingunn Ikdahl

Main literature:


Case law:
- Ephrahim v. Pastory. High Court of Tanzania (1990)

Interpretations, as adopted by treaty bodies:
- CEDAW General Recommendation no. 21 (1994): Equality in marriage and family relations
- CESC General Comment no. 12 (1999): The right to adequate food (Art. 11)
- CESC General Comment no. 15 (2002): The right to water (Arts. 11 and 12 of the Covenant)

10. Legal pluralism and women’s rights

Thursday31 March 14.15 - 16:00
Professor Anne Hellum

Main literature:
- Ali, Shaheen Sardar (2007): Overlapping Discursive Terrains of Culture, Law and Women’s Rights: An Exploratory Study on Legal Pluralism at Play in Pakistan. Warwick School of Law Research Paper. This article is not included in the course compendia. However, it is available on-line on the course home page, as well as at SSRN: http://ssrn.com/abstract=1496330

Case law:
- Ephrahim v. Pastory. High Court of Tanzania (1990)

11. Protection against violence
Monday 4 April 14:15 - 16:00, Room 540 Domus Nova
Professor Anne Hellum

Main literature:
- Andrew Byrnes

12 Implementation, realization and monitoring
Thursday 7 April 14:15-16:00, Room 540 Domus Nova
Research fellow Ingunn Ikdahl

Main literature:

13SEMINAR 2
Monday 11 April  14:15 -16:00, Room 540 Domus Nova
Professor Anne Hellum
Student Presentations – CEDAW’s implementation in different countries

14 Mock Exam – Essay on a give topic
Thursday 14 April
Professor Anne Hellum
According to Article 5 a of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women States Parties shall take “all appropriate measures” to

a) Modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women;

Give account of the background of this provision. What is and should its relevance be in relation to interpretation of the concept of direct, indirect and structural discrimination in relation to national laws protecting women’s right to equality and non-discrimination. Use examples from legal practice in different countries in areas like the rights to work, education, health or livelihood.

The essay should be submitted to Anne Hellum by 11 April.