

PHD PROGRAMME HUMAN RIGHTS IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES

SCALES AND PRACTICES OF HUMAN RIGHTS: LEGALIZATION, MOBILIZATION AND CONTESTATION

RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITES

The same prerequisites for being accepted in the doctoral program, including English proficiency.

TEACHING METHODS

Methodologies:

- lectures that introduce HR regimes and practices and raise core issues;
- discussion based on recommended bibliographic studies;
- case-studies involving presentation and analysis of emblematic practical cases.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who successfully complete the study of this seminar will:

- have a thorough knowledge about the theory and practice of human rights regimes (norms, instruments and institutions) at the national, regional and global levels;
- be able to use national and supranational mechanisms for the resolution of human rights issues;
- understand the limits of conventional human rights norms, institutions and mechanisms in the light of other human rights ideals and mechanisms of dispute resolution;
- be able to discuss human rights practices and issues in specific areas of human rights such as the right against torture;
- obtain skills of advocacy and mobilization to ensure respect for human rights; and
- acquire essay writing skills, including synthesis of various theories and practices and presenting new arguments.

SYLLABUS

The Seminar includes sessions on the following topics:



Global, international, regional and local human rights regimes and institutions

The United Nations, European, Inter-American and African Human Rights Systems

Human rights practices of state, non-state and inter-governmental actors as well as ordinary citizens

Legalization of human rights

Practices in specific areas of human rights: Torture, health and human rights

Advocacy and mobilization for human rights

Legal pluralism and human rights

Human rights and access to justice.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment

Frequency: 20.0%

Research work: 40.0%

Oral presentation : 40.0%

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Alemahu, Sisay (2014), "The African Regional Human Rights System", in Anja Mihr and Mark Gibney, The Sage Handbook of Human Rights. London: Sage.

Goodale, Mark and Merry, S. E. (orgs.) (2007), The Practice of Human Rights: Tracking Law Between the Global and the Local. Cambridge: Cambridge University.

Keck, Margaret and Sikkink, Kathryn (1998). Activists beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press.

Santos, Cecília MacDowell (2015). "Transitional Justice from the Margins: Legal Mobilization and Memory Politics in Brazil," in Schneider, Nina and Esparza, Marcia (orgs.), Legacies of State Violence and Transitional Justice in Latin America: A Janus-Faced Paradigm?, Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books, p. 37-72

Simmons, Beth (2012). "Reflections on Mobilizing Human Rights," International Law and Politics, 44: 729-750.

