



Skeiðslýsing
Course description

Course number	6127.24
Title	Limits of Human Rights and Liberal Democracy
ECTS	5
Prerequisites	Bachelor degree or equivalent with adequate competence in law.
Level	Master.
Purpose	The principal purpose of this seminar course is to introduce the students to a selection of the criticisms that have been directed at the structures and practices of human rights institutions such as the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) and at current conceptions and the implementation of liberal democracy in polities that purport to be based upon its principles. As a part of this study, students will be introduced to a selection of the literature that advances these criticisms. There is a large critical literature in both of these areas that has been buried under a mountain of literature of a more enthusiastic kind. There is no implication that the seminar should favor the criticisms, only that the selected criticisms, and the reasoning behind them, should be explored rather than ignored.
Content	This course will explore—through readings, lectures, and interactive discussion—a selection of the criticisms that have been directed at the structures and practices of human rights institutions such as the ECHR and at current conceptions and implementations of liberal democracy in polities that purport to be based upon its principles. The reasoning behind these criticisms will be examined and discussed. Required readings will consist of a selection of the literature that advances and presents arguments for these criticisms.
Learning and teaching approaches	This course is taught as an interactive seminar involving the co-presence of all teachers and students in all sessions. Teachers and students will be from the University of the Faroe Islands and at least two non-Faroese universities. The seminar will be divided into five teaching days (19-23 August 2024) each of which will be the special responsibility of one of the five teachers and will explore a selection of the criticisms that have been directed at structure and practices of human rights institutions such as the ECHR and/or at current conceptions of liberal democracy and the institutions and practices in place in those polities that profess themselves to be liberal democracies. A three-hour long morning session will be devoted to lecture-discussion presented by the lead teacher, and a three-hour long afternoon session will be devoted to interactive debate and discussion that includes the students and teachers, with the lead teacher of the day stimulating discussion and keeping the discussion on track. The lead teacher for each session will specify and describe advance the focal topic for the session and will specify approximately 60 pages of required readings that will be used as points of reference for the lectures and the subsequent discussion period. These are meant to be read prior to the beginning of the seminar. The course consists of 30 contact-hours of teaching and discussion plus a two-hour examination. Successful completion of the seminar will yield 5 ECTS credits.
Learning outcomes	On completion of the course, the student shall be able to : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• engage critically with a selection of the criticisms that have been made of some



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	<p>of the present forms of liberal democracy and of human rights institutions, and with the literature pertaining thereto.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• participate interactively in debates and discussion of these critical issues.• analyse critically and explain the reasoning behind the various critical points of view examined in the course.• autonomously organise and present research outcomes pertaining to critiques of the structure and practices of human rights institutions and current conceptions and instantiations of liberal democracy.
Assessment method	The seminar will conclude with a two-hour examination consisting of 25 short-answer questions, five of which will be contributed from each teacher. The questions will be related to what has been taught and discussed in the seminar and are to be answered in English. Attendance and active participation in all sessions is a precondition for each student's right to take the examination.
Examination	Internal
Marking scale	7-point grading scale
Bibliography	Reading materials will be available prior to teaching on the Moodle network
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