Human Rights in the Middle East: BCNM01 (Semester A)

Lecturer and course co-ordinator: Prof. Roja Fazaeli, Department of Near and Middle Eastern Studies

Contact Hours:
22 hours of lectures/seminars
4 hours self-study per week

ECTS Value: 5

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:
• Identify the sources and documents of human rights law
• Discuss the sources of Islamic law
• Analyse the main areas of contention in debates on Islam and human rights
• Identify thematic human rights issues in the Middle East and North Africa
• Identify regional case studies

Aims and Objectives
This module seeks to provide students with an introduction to human rights in the Middle East and North Africa from theoretical and practical perspectives. The module gives an overview of international human rights and looks at the implementation of human rights law in the regions of the Middle East and North Africa. The module examines various themes that can be grouped under two main headings: General Introduction to the International Human Rights System (United Nations and Regional Systems) and Vulnerable Groups & Specific Issues in the Middle East and North Africa.

Module Content
The module aims to familiarize students with major universal and regional human rights systems with a focus on the Middle East and North Africa. The theoretical perspective will both engage the international human rights system and also consider debates around the universality of rights and the relationship between Islam and human rights.

Indicative Resources

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Methods of Teaching and Student Learning
Inclusive learning is central to this module. The lectures are mainly participatory. Students are expected to read the material previous to the class and be actively involved in class discussions. Case studies are used to enhance the learning potential of the students.

Methods of Assessment
The module is focused on the assigned readings and in-class discussions. The students should read the assigned articles before each class. The requirements of the module include one in class test worth 20% of the total mark and one 2000 word essay, worth 80% of the total mark. Students are required to pass both components of the module (essay and in class test) with a minimum of 40% in order to pass the module.

Date of Submission
Essays should be submitted by week one of semester two.

Contact
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