Human Rights and the Middle East

Lecturer: Prof. Roja Fazaeli

Contact Hours
22 Hours of seminars
5 hours self-study per week

Aim 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 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. This module examines various themes that can be grouped under two main headings: a) General Introduction to the International Human Rights System (United Nationals 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 with 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
Mahmood Monshipour (ed.), *Human Rights in the Middle East: framworks, goals and strategies,* New York: Palgrave Macmillan, c2011.

Mode of Study
The course will combine lectures and in class discussions. Students are expected to read the recommended material(s) before class and participate in the discussions.

Learning Outcomes
On Successful completion of this module, students will be able to:
* Identify the sources and documents of human rights law
* Discuss sources and documents of human rights 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

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
a) Students must write one essay of between 2,000-2,500 words (SF) or between 2,500-3,000 words (JS)
b) Students will design and deliver a human rights campaign on a current human rights related issue in the Middle East. Students will work in groups and a group presentation will be made on the delivery of the campaign.