

Children's Rights

Single subject and programme course

7.5 credits

Children's Rights

736A30

Valid from:

Determined by

The Quality Board at the Faculty of Arts
and Sciences

Date determined

2014-02-14

Main field of study

Child Studies

Course level

Second cycle

Advancement level

A1X

Course offered for

- Master's Programme in Child Studies

Entry requirements

For admission to the course the student must have: A bachelor's degree in the humanities, social sciences or the behavioural sciences with a major (or its equivalent) in a field relevant to the programme, e.g. anthropology, communication studies, education, history, language studies, media studies, political science, psychology, social work and sociology. Documented knowledge of English equivalent to "Engelska B"/"Engelska 6" or an internationally recognized test, e.g. TOEFL (minimum scores: Paper based 575 + TWE-score 4.5, and internet based 90), IELTS, academic (minimum score: Overall band 6.5 and no band under 5.5), or equivalent.

Intended learning outcomes

After completion of the course, the student should on an advanced level be able to:

- compare various categories of children's rights;
- account for different philosophical arguments in relation to children's rights;
- critically review children's rights in relation to perspectives of universality and cultural relativism;
- analyse the ways in which children's rights may be at conflict with the interests of other groups;
- analyse the ways in which children's rights can be assigned varying meanings by different groups and in various contexts.

Course content

The introduction to the course will give a historical background to today's international agreements on children's rights, as well as identify and elaborate on the differences between various categories of children's rights. Furthermore, the course provides a survey of various theories on rights and the philosophical arguments in favour of and against the special rights of children. The course comprises a thorough discussion of how children's rights are related to other closely related concepts such as children's needs, the best interest of the child, children's participation and children's perspectives. All this is dealt with in relation to specific contexts such as education or the family, and from the perspective of specific articles in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Furthermore, the course will relate the existence of international conventions on children's rights to a broader discussion on universalism and cultural relativism, and thus touch upon the criticism that can be levied upon a universal definition of children's rights and how such criticism may be dealt with. Finally, the course addresses the question of in what ways the best interests of the child may be at conflict with the interests of other groups as well as the ways in which various groups can define "the best interests of the child" in different ways.

Teaching and working methods

Lectures and related discussions take place on campus as well as online on an interactive learning platform. In addition to lectures there are seminars, workshops, and group work online as well as on campus. Between the lectures and the seminars the students independently study the course literature, complete the individual and group assignments, and communicate with other students online. Examining seminars, workshops and group exercises are compulsory. The student must have access to e-mail and Internet. The course is presented in various multi-media formats. In order to guarantee a positive learning situation online, and, in order for the student to be able to actively participate in the course and communicate with fellow students and the teacher, it is therefore important that the student have access to the correct hard- and software. Information concerning the specifications of the equipment necessary for the course can be found in the study guide. English is the language of instruction.

Examination

The examinations consist of active participation in seminars, workshops and group assignments on campus and online, as well as through individual written assignments submitted online. Detailed information on the examinations can be found in the study guide.

Grades

ECTS, EC

Other information

Planning and implementation of a course must take its starting point in the wording of the syllabus. The course evaluation included in each course must therefore take up the question how well the course agrees with the syllabus. The course is carried out in such a way that both men's and women's experience and knowledge is made visible and developed.

Department

Institutionen för Tema