**Course outline**

**Human rights contested:**

**political, cultural, and social challenges**

**for human rights in theory and practice**

Human Rights violation is the common argument in the current political debates between different countries. The content of it is seriously different depends on the who is pronounced the sentences about human rights, and what are the argument and position of the speaker. It has become quite popular among political elites in different countries to explain foreign and domestic politics in terms of human rights, but at the same time human rights and the human rights movement are both in serious crises, especially in concern with authoritarianism, which is “goes global”. The situation in the human rights realm is seriously diverse in this regard– from the challenge of Asian values at the East to the tectonic shift in human rights policy in the West. Currently different regimes and representative of political elites have proposed alternate paradigm of human rights – both conservative (like Islam concept of human rights) and radical left understanding of human rights.

The course seeks to make an overview of the current debates on human rights, based on the role of human rights narrative and practice in different political, cultural, and social context. This course will explore also to understand how human rights are spoiling, mimicking, and emulating in non-democratic context, what kind of rhetoric and practices could be used for such policy.

1/ Introduction. Human rights in the contemporary world: different perspectives.

*Dembour MB (2012). What are human rights? Four schools of thought. In Handbook of Human Rights Feb 20 (pp. 161-169).*

2/ Universalism and particularism of human rights.

*Donnelly, J. (1999). Human rights and Asian values: A defense of ‘Western’universalism. The East Asian challenge for human rights, 69.*

3/ Religion and human rights.

*Ghanea-Hercock, N., Stephens, A., & Walden, R. (Eds.). (2007). Does God believe in human rights?: essays on religion and human rights. Brill.*

4/ Does human rights have a history?

*Moyn, S. (2012). The last utopia: human rights in history. Harvard University Press.*

5/ Left idea and human rights.

*Bob Black. The Myth of human rights*

<https://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/bob-black-the-myth-of-human-rights>

*I EK, S. L. A. V. O. J. (2005). Against human rights. New left review, 34, 115.*

6/ Authoritarianism goes global: authoritarian regimes and human rights

*Diamond, L. J., Plattner, M. F., & Walker, C. (2016). Authoritarianism Goes Global : The Challenge to Democracy. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.*

7/ International law and human rights regime. Limitation of international law of human rights. Authoritarian international law

*Ginsburg, T. (2020). Authoritarian international law?. American Journal of International Law, 114(2), 221-260.*

*Vreeland, J. R. (2008). Political Institutions and Human Rights: Why Dictatorships Enter into the United Nations Convention Against Torture. International Organization, (01), 65.*

8/ Institutions, authoritarianism, and human rights

*Gel'man, V. (2014). The rise and decline of electoral authoritarianism in Russia. Demokratizatsiya, 22(4).*

*Gandhi, J. (2008). Political institutions under dictatorship / Jennifer Gandhi.*

*Svolik, M. W. (2012). The politics of authoritarian rule / Milan W. Svolik. New York, NY*

9/ Dissents and human rights

Hitchens, C. (2005). Letters to a Young Contrarian. New York: Basic Books

10/ Mimicry, whataboutism and emulation – strategies of different countries to spoil human rights