

COURSE SESSION OUTLINE

Course	
Title of the lecture / seminar	Indigenous peoples' rights to land in the Arctic with Comparative approach, including Finland, Sweden and Norway

LECTURERS

Name and surname	Institution	Academic degree
Tanja Joonas	University of Lapland	Dr. Soc. Sc.

LECTURE / SEMINAR ABSTRACT

Please write a short paragraph about the topics and subjects covered during the lecture/seminar.

The Saami people are recognized as the indigenous people of four different countries: Finland, Sweden, Norway and Russia. This course will provide general introduction to the rights concerning the Saami people, particularly in Finland. The course has an interdisciplinary approach combining the methods of international relations and international law therefore it is suitable for students coming from different disciplines. Although the main focus is in the instruments of international law, concerning the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples, an evaluation of the most important national standards are made as well. A short introduction is made to linguistic and cultural rights of the Saami, while mostly emphasizing the land right situation of the people with recent developments in this field. Comparison is made to the other Nordic countries, especially to Sweden and Norway.

The second part of the course introduces the content of the international instrument of ILO Convention No. 169 concerning the rights of indigenous peoples. Finland has not ratified the Convention, but is considering it. The most central concepts of the Convention are introduced in the Saami context with comparative approach. The lectures provide knowledge on challenges related to the ratification and implementation of this Convention: political and legislative from their nature. Comparison is made to those countries which have already ratified the Convention, mostly in Latin America. Generally, challenges relate to the status of indigenous peoples in international law and politics agenda, the rights to land and water of these peoples and the identity of indigenous persons. The course will also focus on the Draft Nordic Saami Convention, a proposed international agreement between Norway, Sweden, and Finland. Presented in 2005, the Convention would recognize Saami rights to self-determination as a distinct people as well as the authority of the Saami Parliaments. A short notion is also made to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) within this context.

The third part of this course emphasizes the strong relationship of indigenous peoples to their lands and waters and how this relationship has changed during the years. Within the Saami people it is the minority who still practises these livelihoods, reindeer herding, fishing and hunting. The course

focuses on the current challenges faced by the traditional livelihoods of the Saami. When speaking about reindeer herding, the loss of pastures and encroachment, competing other land use means, predators and climate change are causing severe problems in the continuation of the livelihood. During the lectures it is pondered what kind of political and legislative changes these challenges would require and what could be the useful instruments, perhaps already used. The discussion of traditional livelihoods relates to the concept of knowledge and how this knowledge is provided for example to decision-makers. The idea is to develop new ways of gathering and sharing the knowledge.

SUMMARY OF COURSE OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this module the students will be able to:

1. *Understand* the basic conditions of the Saami people in the Finnish legislation, with short evaluation of the two other Nordic countries, Norway and Sweden.
2. *Determine* what are the most central international instruments concerning the rights of indigenous peoples and also the new developments within this field.
3. *Apply* the specific international instruments to the situation of the Saami and *analyze* their effectiveness as a source of protection.
4. *Grasp* the challenges related to different national situations especially in the context of land rights and the identity of indigenous peoples.
5. *Explain* the current challenges faced by the traditional livelihoods practiced by the Saami
6. *Produce* academic papers about the rights of indigenous peoples.
7. *Offer* oral presentation with Power Point support together with the group.
8. *Work* with people coming from different disciplinary backgrounds and different cultures.

COURSE DELIVERY:

1. Methodology:

- Lectures

2. Resources:

BASIC LEARNING MATERIALS FOR THE MODULES

- Learning materials/guides (provided by teacher)
- Group work material (provided by the teacher)

MANDATORY MATERIALS

No.	Author, title, publisher / Case name
1	Tanja Joonas, The ILO Convention No. 169 in Nordic Context with Comparative Analysis: An Interdisciplinary Approach, Juridica Lapponica, 37, Lapland University Press, 2012.
2	Tanja Joonas, Safeguarding Cultural Rights of Sámi Children and Youth in Finland, with Special Emphasis on the Linguistic Part of Cultural Identity – Current Challenges. The Yearbook of Polar Law IX (2017) 109-129, Brill, 2018.