

**School of Law – Vietnam National University Hanoi
Master Programme on Human Rights Laws**

Research Methods in Human Rights

Batch 2011-2012

Date: 20-22 August 2012

Course Description

The course will give you insight into research methodologies in legal and social sciences relevant for writing a thesis in the field of human rights. It will discuss basic issues and controversies in the conduct of scholarly research, and will offer you necessary tools and guidelines for researching and writing a good scholarly thesis based on independent thinking and sound argument.

Students writing their thesis in the field of social sciences should also be given insight in legal methods, and students writing their thesis in the field of law should also be given insight into social science.

The course will further allow you to develop and discuss your thesis topic. You will be expected to develop a preliminary draft that includes your thesis problem stated succinctly, its background and importance, its relation to international human rights, an introduction to your research agenda, any preliminary conclusions, a draft outline, and a bibliography.

This course also develops the research skills of master students for Human Rights Laws master programme. The unit addresses practices of research, project design, theory, and critical analysis skills in the preparation and production of a master thesis. The course will be workshop based where it is expected the student will work on their own proposal throughout the course, and use specific classes to develop and workshop aspects of their thesis. The major skills are:

- Developing a thesis topic: finding a topic, structuring an argument, designing the project, writing a proposal.
- Theoretical, analytical, and critical frames necessary for a study/research
- Research methodologies: use and application of critical theories; bringing tools and strategies for research together into a research design.
- Develop research skills relevant to Human rights studies: collection of primary and secondary data, analyzing texts

Learning outcomes:

This course has a dual objective;

- (a) assisting you in further refining your own thesis project
- (b) provide good understanding of methodological issues

At the completion of the course the students will be able to:

- Produce a research proposal of a suitable standard
- Design a basic research project
- Locate ethical issues in a research project
- Develop a conceptual and theoretical frame for the thesis

Course Instructor: Dr. Mike Hayes

Schedule: from 20 – 22 Aug 2012

Time: from 13:00 to 20:00 daily.

Session	Date/Time	Topic	Notes
1.	Day 1	Research design 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of Research in human rights areas as proposed by students• Developing Research topics, Research Objectives• Conceptual frames• Research questions, problems• Research arguments	Lecture Group and individual exercises
2.		Research design 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legal research (Source of law, Case law, Text Law analysis; references in law)• Social Science Research	
3+ 4	Day 2	Research Method and Data Collection <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quantitative and Qualitative• Survey• Case study• Interviews and group discussion techniques	Lecture Group and individual exercises
5.	Day 3	Data Analysis	Lecture and group exercises
6		Making a research proposal	Individual presentations 5 min each

Readings

1) Required Readings [will be provided]

2) other references:

Norman Fairclough (2003) *Analysing Discourse. Textual Analysis for Social Research*. Routledge. London and New York

John Gerring (2007). *Case study Research. Principles and Practices*. Cambridge University Press.

Landman, Todd (2006), *Studying Human Rights*, London and New York: Routledge.

Landman, Todd. [Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics](#)—