**Labour Rights as Human Rights**

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**Course description**

The nature of labour rights has been heavily discussed in both labour and human rights literature. While some scholars claim that labour rights shall be seen as stringent normative entitlements, others are sceptical to characterise them as human rights.

This course will endorse the view that labour law is governed by various human rights principles, addressing both individual and collective rights. Special attention will be given to the freedom of association, the right to bargain collectively and the right to strike. The course will analyse the approach and practice of various human rights instruments, notably the relevant ILO conventions, the ECHR, the European Social Charter and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

The course will also look into the critical aspects of the human rights approach in labour law. Theories arguing from a collective law standpoint will be introduced together with those that deny the universal nature of labour rights.

**Course schedule**

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|  | Topic |
| 1 | Introduction to the course: Are labour rights human rights? |
| 2 | The right to work and the prohibition of forced labour 1. |
| 3 | The right to work and the prohibition of forced labour 2 |
| 4 | Freedom of association & The right to collective bargaining 1. |
| 6 | Freedom of association & The right to collective bargaining 2. |
| 7 | The right to strike |
| 8 | Participation  |
| 9 | Responsibility, Liability and Enforceability |
| 10 | Equality 1 |
| 11 | Equality 2 |
| 12 | Work conditions, Safety and Health  |

**Course requirements**

Open book exam based on the compulsory and elective literature and presentations..