Syllabus

Human Dignity in Comparative Perspective - 62471

Last update 07-07-2016

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: law

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Doron Shultziner

Coordinator Email: doron.shultziner@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Wednesday, 12:00-13:00

Teaching Staff: Dr. Doron Shultziner
Course/Module description:
This course explores the meanings and functions of human dignity in legal parlance and in legal instruments through comparative perspective. We begin the course by identifying the intellectual origins of human dignity and mapping its meanings in philosophical and legal discourses. The connection between human dignity and human rights will also be discussed. We will then explore developments in the usages of human dignity that began in the 20th century, as manifested in national and international legal instruments, as well as through a cross-cultural perspective. A legal-psychological approach to human dignity will be offered and explored in relation to different rights and across legal systems. A special emphasis will also be given to the functions and meanings of human dignity in Israel: the particular circumstances that led to the enactment and interpretation of human dignity as a discrete human right in Israel and its implications. We will also discuss the meanings of dignity in relation to security institutions and medical ethics.

Course/Module aims:
To understand the different functions and meanings of human dignity in legal and political parlance.
To be able to analyze the uses of the term in legal rulings.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
To critically analyze uses of the term in different legal systems.
To observe various uses of the term in legal systems.

Attendance requirements(%):
100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Frontal lectures and class discussions.

Course/Module Content:
1. Historical origins; Philosophic and linguistic approaches; Human dignity in national constitutions
3. Human dignity in Israel: constitutional, political, and interpretative issues.
4. Human dignity in medical ethics.
5. Human dignity in security institutions.
Required Reading:
Meeting 1 (classes 1-2) 25.10.2012: Historical origins;Philosophic and linguistic approaches; Human dignity in national constitutions

Class Reading:

Additional recommended reading:

Meeting 2 (classes 3-4) 1.11.2012: Cross-cultural conceptions of human dignity; Human dignity in international instruments; Human dignity in legal interpretation

Class Reading:

Additional recommended reading:
Meeting 3 (classes 5-6) 8.11.2012: A comparative legal-psychological approach to human dignity; Therapeutic Jurisprudence
Class Reading:

Additional recommended reading:

Meeting 4 (classes 7-8) 15.11.2012: Human dignity in Israel: constitutional, political, and interpretative issues
Class Reading:

Meeting 5 (classes 10-11) 22.11.2012: Human dignity in medical ethics; guest speaker Prof. Yechiel Bar-Ilan

Law on Human Cloning

Further recommended readings:

Meeting 6 (classes 11-12) 29.11.2012: Human dignity in security institutions; Students' presentations

Class Reading:

Additional Reading Material:
Further suggested reading:


Fletcher, G.P. 1984. 'Human Dignity as a Constitutional Value.' University of Western Ontario Law Review 22.


University Press.


**Course/Module evaluation:**
- End of year written/oral examination 100 %
- Presentation 0 %
- Participation in Tutorials 0 %
- Project work 0 %
- Assignments 0 %
- Reports 0 %
- Research project 0 %
- Quizzes 0 %
- Other 0 %

**Additional information:**
- Attendance is obligatory with an emphasis on active and useful participation. The lecturer may give bonus points for answering guiding questions along the course.