Department of Law

Stockholm University

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Legal Methods in Research and Practice
Metod i forskning och praktik

15.0 Higher Education Credits
15.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	JU675M
Valid from:	Autumn 2018
Date of approval:	2015-02-18
Changed:	2018-03-15
Department	Department of Law
Main field:	European Economic Law
Specialisation:	A1F - Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

Approved by the Education Committee (delegation) on 18 February 2015. Revised by decision of the Education Committee (delegation) on 14 September 2016. Revised by the head of department on 20 March 2018.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Students must be accepted to the Master of Laws Programme in European Economic Law, have completed the course Advanced European Economic Law with a grade of Pass or better, and have completed the requirements in the chosen specialisation course.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
0100	Methods in Research and Practice	15

Course content

This course is the third course in the Master of Laws Programme in European Economic Law. It aims to provide specialised knowledge in EU legal theory and methods.

The course also aims to further prepare students for qualified application of European economic law in both practical situations, for example dispute resolution and negotiations, and in independent research.

In the first part of the course, students participate in practical exercises in the form of mock trials or other types of cases, where they take the role of a party, legal representative or another legal role in a reality-based dispute resolution situation. Through this exercise, students practise applying the substantive knowledge, argumentation skills, and methodological knowledge they have acquired during the programme's first term.

The second part of the course aims to further prepare students for research in European economic law and to support them in the work with their Master thesis project. Through active participation in a series of seminars, students deepen their knowledge of EU legal theory and methods as well as obtain insight into other relevant scholarly and related approaches, such as comparative methods, law and economics, and sociology of law. Students will present sections and drafts of their proposed thesis and have the opportunity to discuss these with teachers and other students.

The course includes an advanced seminar in European economic law. The purpose of the seminar is to, at an

advanced academic level, convey knowledge and insights into current issues, trends and research developments in European economic law. Within the context of the seminar series, researchers are invited to present new and ongoing research. Particular focus will be placed on questions that are related to students' proposed thesis subjects.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding
After successful completion of the course, the student is expected to be able to:
- display detailed knowledge of research and developments in European economic law,
- display detailed methodological knowledge relevant for research and for advanced work in the area of European economic law.

Skills and abilities
After successful completion of the course, the student is expected to be able to:
- display the ability to integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess and manage complex events, questions and situations even with limited information;
- plan and carry out qualified legal research in European economic law within specified time frames,
- argue for and against different solutions in European economic law, both orally and in written format,
- formulate relevant scholarly questions within a chosen subject area of European economic law,
display the necessary skills to participate in research and development, or to work independently in other specialised activities, such as for a court.

Judgement and Approach
After completing the course, the student is expected to:
- display the ability to make assessments taking into consideration relevant scientific, social and ethical issues, as well as display awareness of ethical issues in research and development work;
- demonstrate understanding of the opportunities and limits of knowledge, its role in society, and individuals' responsibility for how it is used.

Education

Instruction will consist of:
- One (or more) practical exercise in the form of a mock trial or the equivalent, where students practise the application of legal methodology and techniques for arguing cases.
- Lectures and seminars on legal theory and methodology, and on various scholarly and related approaches, such as comparative methods, law and economics, and sociology of law.
- Thesis seminars, where students have the opportunity to discuss in groups important questions for their thesis such as defining relevant questions, delimiting the research questions, methodological considerations, critical management and use of source material, and proper citation of sources.
- An advanced seminar in European economic law, where new and ongoing research is presented with particular focus on questions that are related to students' proposed thesis subjects.

The language of instruction is English.

Participation in the mock trial or equivalent, and in 80 per cent of the other instruction is required. If there are special circumstances the head of the course can allow exceptions. In this case, the student shall be responsible for completing an additional assignment.

Forms of examination

Examination is based on participation in the practical exercises, written or oral assignments, and active participation in the other instruction. When the student has completed assignments in a group, the individual student's achievement is checked with questions at the seminars. The language of examination is English.

All course requirements must be met in order to pass the course. Course grades are determined based on a combination of the individual's performance in each of the different elements of the course. More details about how grades are weighted are given in the course description.

Students who initially fail the course are given the opportunity to be assessed a second time. Students who have received a passing grade are not allowed to be assessed again in order to earn a higher grade. Students who fail the course twice from the same examiner have the right to request a different examiner for their additional attempt. This, however, does not apply if there are particular reasons that a different examiner cannot be appointed.

The grading system consists of the passing grades A (Excellent), B (Very good), C (Good), D (Satisfactory),

or E (Sufficient). Failing grades are Fx (Insufficient) or F (Entirely insufficient).

Grading criteria shall be made available at the latest at the beginning of the course.

A student with a certificate of special pedagogical support issued by Stockholm University has the right to alternative/accommodated forms of examination.

Completed course requirements are valid for two years. This also applies to students who de-register from the course through early non-completion.

The course requirements in effect at the time of the student's first registration on the course may be completed within two years. After two years, the course requirements included in the most recently revised syllabus will apply.

Misc

Effective date
These provisions are effective from 3 September 2018.

Required reading

The reading list is established by the head of department. Please refer to the course website and the course description for information about the required reading. The current reading list will be made available at least two months before the course starts.