

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Legal Systems and Methods

Rättskulturer och juridisk metod

15.0 Higher Education

Credits

15.0 ECTS credits

Course code: JU630A
Valid from: Autumn 2019
Date of approval: 2015-06-10
Changed: 2018-04-05
Department Department of Law

Subject Law and Legal Studies
Specialisation: A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

Approved by the Education Committee at the Faculty of Law on 10 June 2015. Revised by the head of department (by delegation) on 5 April 2018.

Technical revision by the Student Services on 3 May 2019.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

For access to lectures and examination, students must fulfill the general requirement for admission to elective courses, i.e. having passing grades amounting to at least 150 credits on mandatory courses within the law program.

Exchange students admitted by the Department of Law at Stockholm University are also given access to the course.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
0100	Legal Systems and Methods	15

Course content

The main purpose of this course is to help law students develop tools to successfully negotiate the difficulties that arise from clashing legal traditions in everyday legal work in an international or internationalized setting. In order to achieve this goal, a two-fold approach is necessary: First and foremost, students will be given an introduction to legal culture within the most theoretically and practically important legal systems. The curriculum places particular emphasis on legal methods and techniques specific to a legal tradition. Since legal cultures are constantly evolving, their historical background and ideological underpinnings must be considered. In addition to the study of the legal methods of the world, students are required to develop such skills that facilitate legal work in situations where more than one legal tradition is involved. Practical exercises will help students to acquire inter-cultural legal communication skills and strategies (International Lawyering). The course closes with a case study.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge about and an understanding of the legal methods and techniques of the most important legal traditions, including their historical background and their institutional and ideological

underpinnings.

Skills and abilities

- identify relevant issues in this specific field of knowledge and critically analyze reasoning in law and legal scholarship with regard to methodological implications,
- collect the results of the analysis and independently and systematically formulate relevant legal arguments on the basis of methods and techniques in different legal traditions.

Judgement and approach

- evaluate the legal consequences following a choice of method and make strategic evaluations of the suitability of different methods and techniques in particular cases,
- in general develop such practical skills that make it possible to successfully work in an international or internationalized legal environment.

Education

The course length is 10 weeks. Instruction is given in the form of lectures, group work, seminars and a case study. Active participation in the seminars is mandatory, unless otherwise specified. The requirement of active participation means that the student has made suitable preparations for the seminar and is prepared to answer questions and take part in the discussion. Absence from a maximum of 25% of seminars can, however, be compensated by a short essay for every seminar the student has missed. Participation in the case study is mandatory and cannot be compensated.

The language of instruction is English.

Forms of examination

The course is examined on the basis of a written exam and a case study. The language of examination is English.

Grading will be based on individual achievements in both the written exam and the case study. The written exam makes up 75% and the case study 25% of the basis for the assessment. In order to pass the course, students must achieve all intended learning outcomes.

Grading criteria and permitted aids during the examination are specified in the course description.

Students who receive a failing grade on a regular examination will have the opportunity to retake the examination. Students who have received a passing grade on an examination may not retake the examination to attain a higher grade. A student who has failed the same examination twice is entitled to have another examiner appointed, unless there are special reasons to the contrary.

The final course grade is set using the following scale: Pass with Distinction (AB), Pass with Credit (BA), Pass (B) or Fail (U).

Students are entitled upon request to receive grades according to the seven-point ECTS scale. The request should be made by the student before the examination as determined by the Department of Law. The grade according to the seven-point scale is then valid instead of the regular grade. Passing grades according to the seven-point scale are: A (Excellent), B (Very Good), C (Good), D (Satisfactory) and E (Adequate). Failing grades are Fx (Inadequate) or F (Totally Inadequate).

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

Misc

Completed course requirements are valid for two years. This also applies to students who drop the course during the early course withdrawal period.

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.

Entry into force

These provisions will apply as of 21 January 2019.

Required reading

The course literature is decided by the head of department. For information concerning course literature, see the course's homepage and course description. The current reading list will be made available at least two months before the course starts.