Department of Law

Stockholm University

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Master Thesis in Public International Law
Examensarbete i folkrätt

15.0 Higher Education Credits
15.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	JU705M
Valid from:	Autumn 2021
Date of approval:	2020-06-03
Department	Department of Law
Main field:	Public International Law
Specialisation:	A1E - Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (60 credits)

Decision

Approved by the Education Committee of the Faculty of Law on 3 June 2020.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Admission to the course requires that the student is admitted to the master's programme in International Law (60 credits) at Stockholm University, has satisfactorily completed the programme's first course Advanced Course in Public International Law, as well as the mandatory elements of the elective advanced courses.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
0100	Master Thesis in Public International Law	15

Course content

The course is the final course in the master's programme in International Law (MIL). During the course, students will carry out an independent project, qualifying them to conduct further research in the field. Students will plan and write an essay in a clearly defined subject area within international law. Compared to the courses offered during the first semester of the master's programme in international law, this last course aims to further develop and deepen both method and subject-matter.

The research project will consist of a single coherent thesis and shall not be divided into different memoranda. The thesis is an individual research project and as such shall be written independently.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding
Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:
- demonstrate in-depth knowledge and understanding of the part of jurisprudence that the thesis deals with, and
- demonstrate advanced methodological knowledge of international law, including in-depth insights into the systematics and terminology of international law.

Skills and Abilities
Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:
- demonstrate an in-depth ability to integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess and manage international law

issues even with limited information,
- demonstrate the ability to independently identify and formulate questions as well as plan and use appropriate methods to carry out detailed assignments within specified time frames,
- demonstrate the ability to clearly report and discuss one's own conclusions and the knowledge and arguments that form the basis for these conclusions, both orally and in writing, and
- demonstrate the skills necessary to participate in research and development work, or to work independently in other professional areas.

Judgement and Approach
Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:
- demonstrate an in-depth ability to make assessments in internation law with respect to relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects, as well as demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of international law research and development work,
- demonstrate an understanding of the opportunities and limits of scientific knowledge, its role in society, and people's responsibility for how it is used, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify their need for additional knowledge and to take responsibility for additional scholarly development.

Education

Instruction is given in the form of seminars, lectures and thesis supervision. The thematic focus of the thesis, as well as the relevant supervisor, are decided upon during the previous elective specialisation course.

The lectures in the course focus on the choice of methods and analytical approaches within international law. The seminar series cover practical aspects of academic writing (with examples from the students' own essays), including the formulation of research questions and delimitation of subject-matter. Students receive feedback both individually and during seminar discussions.

The lectures aim to give students in-depth knowledge in legal theory and methodology, as well as guidance in different theories and methods within legal sciences and related, e.g. comparative legal sociology and legal economics methods. During the seminar series, students are given the opportunity to, in groups, discuss important practical aspects of the thesis, such as identifying and formulating research issues, delimiting subject-matter and choosing appropriate methodological approaches. The seminar series is dedicated to developing and presenting legal argumentation as well as scientific writing and formulation techniques, including citation techniques, appropriate ways to use and refer to source material and other formal requirements.

Individual supervision means, among other, that students will receive feedback on their thesis draft.
In the course, students also carry out a critical peer-review of another student's thesis.

Participation in both teaching and peer-review is mandatory. In the case of a lawful excuse, the course director may grant exemptions. In such a case, the student shall be responsible for completing an additional assignment. Exemption from attendance at the examination and peer-review seminar will not granted.

The language of instruction is English.

Forms of examination

Examination is carried out when students present and defend their thesis at an examination seminar. The final grade in the course is based on the thesis. The peer-review is only graded with either Pass (G) or Fail (U).

The examiner for each thesis is appointed by the head of department. The examiner also acts as moderator during the thesis seminar. Supervisors cannot be examiners.
Grading criteria are specified in the course description. Basic assessment criteria:
1. Ability to identify, formulate and critically analyse issues
2. Factual knowledge and insight into the subject
3. Presentation - systematic, clear and logical outline, focus on central problems
4. Familiarity with and ability to use relevant material
5. Ability to describe chosen method or methods Relevance of chosen method or methods Consistent use of chosen method or methods
6. Independence
7. Consideration of societal, scientific and international aspects of the chosen issue
8. Substantiated conclusions with an in-depth discussion in the subject area
9. Scientific acribia, i.e. accuracy and precision in the account of references and sources
10. Clear, correct and concise language, proper use of terminology
11. Ability to respond to constructive criticism

12. Ability to meet deadlines The language of examination is English.
To pass the course, all of the course's learning outcomes must be met.

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,

The final grade in the course is set using the following seven-point scale: The final grade in the course is set using the following seven-point scale: 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 18 January 2021.

Required reading

The course literature will be determined 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.