Department of Law

Stockholm University

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Master Thesis in Environmental Law
Examensarbete i miljörätt

15.0 Higher Education Credits
15.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	JU709M
Valid from:	Spring 2022
Date of approval:	2020-06-03
Department	Department of Law
Main field:	Environmental 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 Environmental Law (60 credits) at Stockholm University, has satisfactorily completed the programme's first course Transboundary Environmental Law, as well as the mandatory elements of the course Cross-cutting Issues in Environmental Law.

Course structure

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

Course content

During the course, Student will write an essay of ca 30-40 pages. In the thesis, environmental law issues should be highlighted in a transboundary context or from a transboundary perspective, in one of the advanced and integrated themes studied in the course Cross-cutting Issues in Environmental Law:

- Environmental law, trade and corporate responsibility
- Environmental law, climate and energy
- Environmental law and Human Rights
- Environmental law and social-ecological resilience

The subject of the essay may relate to international, European (EU), transnational or comparative environmental law. It can also be interdisciplinary in nature and related to other subjects of a legal or non-legal nature.

In parallel with the course and the writing of the thesis, students study the course Methods, Theories and Practices in Environmental Law, which includes seminars on theory and method, as well as a mock negotiation.

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 in-depth methodological knowledge of environmental law in transboundary contexts, including in-depth insights into the systematics and terminology of environmental law.

Skills and Abilities
Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:
- demonstrate an in depth ability to identify and independently formulate relevant environmental law problems and present the results in written form,
- independently search, systematise and evaluate relevant legal information in order to analyse a complex environmental law issue in an in-depth way,
- demonstrate an in-depth ability to use different legal methods and apply relevant legal theories to answer the chosen topic and reflect on one's own methodological and theoretical choices, and
- demonstrate an in-depth ability to orally account for, discuss and justify one's own conclusions as well as critically and objectively examine other people's written work regarding an environmental legal problem.

Judgement and Approach
Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:
- demonstrate an in-depth ability to make assessments in environmental law with respect to relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects, as well as demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of environmental law research and development work,
- demonstrate an understanding of the opportunities and limits of scientific knowledge, its role in society, and the responsibility of individuals for how the legal frameworks are interpreted and applied, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify their need for further knowledge and to take responsibility for their scholarly development.

Education

The course is worth 15 credits and is carried out over 20 weeks part-time (50%). Instruction consists in thesis supervision and thesis defense. All teaching is compulsory unless specifically stated otherwise. Each student is appointed a thesis supervisor.

The language of instruction is English.

Forms of examination

The course is examined through the writing and defense of the thesis, as well as the opposition on another's student's thesis.

Grading criteria are specified in the course description. Students who do not complete their these within one semester after their first registration on the course cannot get a higher final grade than C. Exemptions are granted only in the case of a long-term illness supported by a medical certificate. For students who are entitled to accommodated examination in the form of extended time constraints, these measures will accordingly apply to the thesis as well. The course director may, upon application, grant exemption under certain circumstances.

Exemption from participation in the thesis seminar, where one's own essay is defended, and from the opposition seminar will not be granted.
Assessment criteria for the thesis:
– Subject and problem formulation
– Factual knowledge and insight into the subject
– Presentation
– Material and method
– Analysis and argumentation including independence of thought
– Conclusions, sources and formalities
– Language
– Oral presentation and discussion at the seminar

Assessment criteria for the thesis defense:
– Insight into the current scenario and assigned role
– Ability to formulate problems
– Ability to independently and systematically argue, based on given conditions.
– Ability to adapt argumentation to changing circumstances
– Ability to reflect on ongoing discussions The language of examination is English.

The final grade in the course is based on the thesis. Other examination elements are assessed with the grade Pass (G) or Fail (U).

Grading criteria 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.
To pass the course, all of the course's learning outcomes must be met.

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.