Department of Law

Stockholm University

Syllabus

for course at first level

Cross-Cultural Understandings of Justice
Tvärkulturella förståelser av rättvisa

3.5 Higher Education Credits
3.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	JU263F
Valid from:	Summer 2023
Date of approval:	2023-02-09
Department	Department of Law
Main field:	Legal Science
Specialisation:	GXX - First cycle, in-depth level of the course cannot be classified

Decision

Approved by the Education Committee of the Faculty of Law 09 February 2023.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

The course is intended for foreign students enrolled in an exchange programme at the Department of Law or in the Stockholm Business School Summer programme at Stockholm University.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
MOM1	Cross-Cultural Understandings of Justice	3.5

Course content

Much of existing scholarship studies perspectives of other cultures within what is basically a Western-framework of defining justice – in distributive, procedural and retributive terms. This essentialises and relativises those cultures and undermines our ability to grasp important lessons beyond justice in a reactive sense. There is a vast body of literature emanating from the hegemonic lens which arrives at perplexing and unhelpful conclusions such as: people from cultures which value religion and collective values consider legal norms to be inconsequential. Such findings are typically used to characterise eastern/southern societies to the obvious exclusion of examples like the United States – a society with a high incidence of both religiosity and litigiousness.

Studying cross-cultural perspectives problematises our assumptions about individual motivations and premises of co-existence in society. When social dynamics are grasped in these imaginative, inter-dependent ways, our ability to diagnose misalignments and move towards restoring balance and long-term harmony expands.

This course aims to highlight conceptual frameworks and real-world examples which exemplify this alternative paradigm.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding
Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:
- Understand the Western- framework of defining justice in distributive, procedural and retributive terms;
- Through studying cross-cultural perspectives problematise assumptions about individual motivations and

premises of co-existence in society; and
- Identify other non-Western frameworks for achieving objectives other than simply individual justice such as societal balance and long-term harmony.

Skills and abilities
Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:
- Develop the skills for designing actionable solutions in order to harness diversity.

Judgement and approach
Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:
- Develop the ability to learn from other cultures in a non-judgemental way

Education

Instruction comprises 2 weeks of full-time studies and consists of lectures and seminars. During seminars, students will critically discuss course materials and / or answer problem questions.

A more detailed description of the course content is available in the course description and course schedule. The language of instruction is English.

Forms of examination

The language of examination is English and the examination is conducted through:
- Active participation in class;
- Worksheets based on assigned materials; and
- A group project

Active attendance is mandatory at all teaching. Active attendance refers to students having prepared the assignments, if any, and being ready to participate in discussions about them. The language of examination is English.

All of the course's learning outcomes must be met and all activities passed in order to pass the course.

Students who fail the regular examination are given the opportunity for re-examination. Students who have passed are not entitled to undergo re-examination for higher grades. Students who are failed twice by the same examiner have the right to demand a different examiner when doing additional re-examinations. This does not however apply if there are specific reasons for not appointing a different examiner.

The grading scale for the course is as follows: Pass (G) or Fail (U).

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 de-register from the course through early withdrawal.

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 1 March 2023.

Required reading

The course literature is approved 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.